

## U.S. border agency says it's made biggest-ever fentanyl bust

By ANITA SNOW  
Associated Press

**PHOENIX (AP)** — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials announced Thursday their biggest fentanyl bust ever, saying they captured nearly 254 pounds (114 kilograms) of the synthetic drug that is helping fueling a national epidemic of fatal opioid overdoses from a secret compartment inside a load of Mexican produce heading into Arizona. The drug was found hidden Saturday morning in a compartment under the rear floor of a tractor-trailer after a scan during secondary inspection indicated "some anomalies" in the load, and the agency's police dog team alerted officers to the presence of drugs, Nogales CBP Port Director Michael Humphries said.



Continued on Page 3

A display of the fentanyl and meth that was seized by Customs and Border Protection officers over the weekend at the Nogales Port of Entry is shown during a press conference on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, in Nogales, Ariz.

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# Long johns to short sleeves: Rapid thaw follows polar blast

By **TAMMY WEBBER** and **JEFF KAROUB**

**Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — In Illinois, temperatures could rise by 80 degrees within days. In Michigan, melting snow and rain and a 17-mile ice jam could lead to flooding. Across the Midwest, the sudden warmth was sure to bring more broken roads and busted water mains. The polar vortex that brought many cities to a standstill was expected to end with a rapid thaw that experts say could be unprecedented. But the sudden swing from long johns to light jackets and short sleeves could create problems of its own.

"I don't think there's ever been a case where we've seen (such a big) shift in temperatures," in the winter, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the Weather Underground firm. "Past record-cold waves have not dissipated this quickly. ... Here we are going right into spring-like temperatures."

On Thursday, the system marched east, spreading



**Ice covers the observation deck at the base of Horseshoe falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.**

arctic conditions over an area from Buffalo to Brooklyn. In western New York, a storm that dumped up to 20 inches of snow (51 centimeters) gave way to subzero temperatures and face-stinging wind chills. In New York City, about 200 firefighters battling a blaze in a commercial building took turns getting warm on buses. The number of deaths

that could be blamed on the cold climbed to at least 15.

For the nation's midsection, relief was as close as the weekend.

Rockford, Illinois, was at a record-breaking minus 31 (minus 35 Celsius) on Thursday morning but should be around 50 (10 Celsius) on Monday. Other previously frozen areas could see temperatures of 55 (13 Celsius) or higher.

The dramatic warm-up will offer a respite from the bone-chilling cold that canceled school, closed businesses and halted trains. But potholes will appear on roads and bridges weakened by the freeze-thaw cycle. The same cycle can crack water mains and homeowners' pipes. Scores of vehicles will be left with flat tires and bent rims.

Joe Buck, who manages Schmit Towing in Minneapolis and spent about 20 hours a day outdoors this week responding to stranded vehicle calls, said he's already taking calls for Monday to deal with a backlog of hundreds of stalled vehicles.

"Sunday is going to be 39 degrees ABOVE zero," said Buck, who has had 18 trucks running around the clock in wind chills that dropped to minus 50.

In Detroit, where some water mains are almost 150 years old, city workers were dealing with dozens of

breaks, said Palencia Mobley, deputy director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

"We'll have all hands on deck. Hopefully, we'll be able to address as many of the issues as possible over the next week," Mobley said.

The thawing of pipes can sometimes inflict greater damage than the initial freeze. Bursts can occur when ice inside starts to melt and water rushes through the pipe, or when water in the pipe is pushed to a closed faucet by expanding ice.

Elsewhere, a bridge in the western Michigan community of Newaygo, 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Grand Rapids was closed as the ice-jammed Muskegon River rose above flood stage. Officials in Buffalo, New York, watched for flooding on the Upper Niagara River because of ice.

In other signs that the worst of the deep freeze was over, Xcel Energy on Thursday lifted a request to its Minnesota natural gas customers to temporarily lower their thermostats to ease concerns about the fuel supply.

Earlier in the day, several cities set new record lows. Rockford saw a record low temperature of minus 31 (minus 35 Celsius), on Thursday. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, set a daily record low of

minus 30 degrees (minus 34 Celsius).

Chicago's temperature dropped to a low of around minus 21 degrees (minus 30 Celsius) on Thursday, slightly above the city's lowest-ever reading of minus 27 degrees (minus 32 Celsius) in January 1985.

Milwaukee's low was minus 25 degrees (minus 31 Celsius), and Minneapolis recorded minus 24 degrees (minus 31 Celsius). Wind chills were lower still.

In Michigan, efforts to conserve heat during the extreme cold reduced usage by 10 percent following a fire at a major natural gas facility, officials said. Consumers Energy, the state's largest supplier of natural gas, asked its 1.7 million customers and others to set their thermostats at 65 degrees (18 degrees Celsius) or lower until late Thursday. "In our 130 years, we've never experienced this kind of demand or these kinds of temperatures," CEO Patti Poppe said.

Masters, from Weather Underground, said the polar vortex was "rotating up into Canada" and not expected to return in the next couple of weeks. If it does return in late February, "it won't be as intense."

Still, memories of the dangerous cold were bound to linger.

In Illinois, at least 144 people visited hospital emergency rooms for cold-related injuries over two days. Most of the injuries were hypothermia or frostbite, according to a spokesman for the state Department of Public Health.

The effect on the overall economy was not expected to be that great.

"It only shows up marginally in the economic data," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, who ended up working from home because her offices in Chicago were shut because of weather.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said one reason the severe cold weather will have less impact is that, unlike a hurricane, people did not lose electric power. □

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## FENTANYL

### Continued from Front

Most of the seized fentanyl with an overall street value of about \$3.5 million was in white powder form, but about 2 pounds of it (1 kilogram) was contained in pills. Agents also seized nearly 395 pounds (179 kilograms) of methamphetamine with a street value of \$1.18 million, Humphries said.

"The size of a few grains of salt of fentanyl, which is a dangerous opioid, can kill a person very quickly," Humphries said. The seizure, he said, had prevented an immeasurable number of doses of the drug "that could have harmed so many families."

The Drug Enforcement Administration said the previous largest U.S. seizure of fentanyl had been in August 2017 when it captured 145 pounds (66 kilograms) of the drug in a Queens, New York, apartment that was linked to the Sinaloa Cartel. Before that, the largest recorded fentanyl seizure was 88 pounds (40 kilograms) nabbed from a pickup truck in Bartow County, Georgia.

Mexican traffickers have been increasingly smuggling the drug into the United States, mostly hidden in passenger vehicles and tractor-trailers trying to head through ports of entry in the Nogales, Arizona, and San Diego areas.

Doug Coleman, the DEA's special agent for the Phoenix division, expressed admiration for size of the recent bust, emphasizing that it was not the product of any intelligence from his agency but rather "pure, old fashioned police work" by the agent who pulled the truck over.

"It was totally a cold hit" based on the agent's hunch, Coleman said.

Fentanyl has caused a surge in fatal overdoses

around the U.S., including the 2016 accidental death of pop music legend Prince, who consumed the opioid in counterfeit pills that looked like the narcotic analgesic Vicodin.

U.S. law enforcement officials say the illicit version of the painkiller is now seen mostly as a white powder that can be mixed with heroin for an extra kick as well as blue pills that are counterfeits of prescription drugs like oxycodone.

The legal prescription form of the drug is used mostly to provide relief to cancer patients suffering unbearable pain at the end of their lives.

DEA officials have said that while 85 percent of the illicit fentanyl entering the United States from Mexico is seized at San Diego-area border crossings, an increasing amount is being detected on the border with Arizona, a state where the Sinaloa cartel controls the drug trade and fatal fentanyl overdoses are rising.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says in a recent report that fentanyl is now the drug most often involved in fatal overdoses across the country, accounting for more than 18,000, or almost 29 percent, of the 63,000 overdose fatalities in 2016. □



Juan Mariscal, assistant special agent in charge for Nogales talks during a press conference Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, in Nogales, Ariz.

Associated Press

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# South Carolina Dems overwhelmed by flood of 2020 contenders

By MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) —

South Carolina Democrats are feeling overwhelmed. Sens. Cory Booker and Bernie Sanders, who are potential presidential contenders, were just in town. Sens. Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren, both presidential candidates, have already been here. Another White House hopeful, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, will pay her first visit in February. And this is just the beginning.

Ahead of the most wide-open Democratic primary in a generation, South Carolinians will soon be flooded with dozens of White House hopefuls. More than a year away, the contest is already shaping up as the most consequential in recent memory. For the first time, it's expected to feature two black candidates — Harris and Booker — competing for support in the first primary state with a significant African-American population.

The prospect of so many White House contenders is enough to wear out even



This photo taken Jan. 14, 2019, shows New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker walking with South Carolina NAACP president Brenda Murphy during a Martin Luther King Junior Day march and rally in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

the most dedicated political activist. But it's especially challenging in South Carolina, where Democrats have fewer resources than in other traditional early-voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. That's raising concerns about

how South Carolina Democrats will handle next year's primary.

"It will be a crush, at least for a while," said Carol Fowler, a former state party chairwoman and long-time Democratic National Committee member. "This

is an absolutely enormous number of candidates right now."

She said the state Democratic Party will likely need to bulk up on staff soon to coordinate with all the campaigns.

Republicans were in a similar spot in 2016, when 17 candidates competed for president. By the time the South Carolina primary arrived, a half-dozen were still on the ballot in a contest that gauged the support of religious conservatives.

But South Carolina is a Republican stronghold. In the 2016 general election, President Donald Trump carried the state with 55 percent of the vote. The GOP controls both legislative chambers, all statewide-elected offices and most of the congressional seats.

And Republicans have a more sophisticated structure, with organization that extends to the county level. Democrats, meanwhile, manage most of their operations at the state level and focus less on strong county parties.

These factors helped the GOP develop the financial and organizational ability to sift through a complicated primary in 2016. But Democrats say they don't want to change.

"The definition of being a Democrat is not analogous with being structured," said state Sen. Marlon Kimpson, a Democrat representing Charleston who plans a series of forums with Democratic contenders. "We're not Republicans."

Still, Democrats haven't won the governor's mansion in two decades. Outside presidential primaries, Democrats are largely irrelevant, leaving the party with little money and few veteran political operatives who can guide candidates through South Carolina's complicated politics.

"Simply, we don't have a lot of people who have won," Fowler said. "As such, we don't have a very deep bench of good, experienced operatives."

Some candidates have sought to turn the sparse resources into an opportunity. Ahead of last year's midterms, Warren dispatched one of her staffers, Saloni Sharma, to South Carolina to help run the state party's communications efforts. Sharma has since left South Carolina to work on Warren's presidential exploratory committee. But Warren's gesture of help could generate goodwill among the party faithful when it's time to vote.

So far, most of the 2020 visits have been brief, requiring little support from the state party. Booker and Sanders marched in and spoke at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day rally in Columbia. Sanders appeared later at a community forum and met with the Legislative Black Caucus. Harris, fresh off announcing her presidential campaign, spoke to fellow members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority last week at their annual Pink Ice Gala, but left shortly after singing the organization's song and taking selfies with the crowd.

As the campaign season goes on, voters will be expecting more substantive visits, such as gatherings in churches and among community groups, said Jaime Harrison, Democratic state party chairman in the 2016 cycle. □

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## Judge awards \$300M to family of journalist killed in Syria

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A Washington judge has hit the Syrian government with a \$302 million judgment over the 2012 death of journalist Marie Colvin, a long-time foreign correspondent for The Sunday Times.

In a verdict unsealed late Wednesday night, U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson concluded the Syrian military had deliberately targeted the makeshift media center in the city of Homs where Colvin and other journalists were working. Sustained artillery barrages against the apartment building housing the media center killed Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik on Feb. 22, 2012.

Colvin, who had covered conflicts around the world for the British newspaper, wore a signature black patch over her left eye after being blinded by a grenade in Sri Lanka in 2001. The 2018 film "A Private

War" was based on her life. Lawyers for Colvin's family argued that her death was no accident. They hope to recover the \$302 million verdict by targeting frozen Syrian government assets overseas. The Syrian government has never responded to the suit.

"The challenge now is going to be enforcing the judgment," said Scott Gilmore, lead counsel for the Colvin family. "The precedents show that it is possible to recover assets."

Gilmore said one of the main challenges of the lawsuit was to prove that Colvin's death wasn't caused by standard "fog of war" battlefield confusion. The suit used a mixture of eyewitness accounts, testimony from defectors and recovered internal Syrian government documents to prove the Syrian military had spent days trying to locate the apartment building that Colvin and several

journalists were using as a home base.

"This wasn't a stray shell," Gilmore said. "The overwhelming weight of the evidence concluded that this was essentially an assassination."

Technically foreign governments are immune from jurisdiction in U.S. courts through the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. However, that immunity is lifted for alleged crimes against American citizens by governments classified as a "state sponsor of terrorism." Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian is using a similar approach to sue the Iranian government, which jailed him for more than 500 days on espionage charges.

Colvin's sister, Cathleen, said she had initially assumed Marie's death was a tragic accident, the kind that could happen to any journalist in a war zone. She decided to pursue a



In this May 13, 2013, file photo, the photo of Journalist Marie Colvin who was killed in Syria while she was reporting from there, is seen on the wall of the Newseum during the Journalist Memorial Re-dedication ceremony of the journalists who died reporting the news in 2012 in Washington.

Associated Press

lawsuit after speaking with Paul Conroy, a photographer who was working with Marie Colvin and was injured in the same shelling. Conroy, a veteran of the British Army's Royal Artillery, told her the media center wasn't hit by haphazard shelling but by "bracketing," a recognized artillery technique used to home in on a specific target.

"It was part of the government's strategy in putting down the uprising," Cathleen Colvin said. "They pri-

oritized taking out the journalists."

Colvin said she doesn't know if the suit will ever succeed in retrieving any of that \$302 million. But she hopes it will at least be a long-term inconvenience and embarrassment to President Bashar Assad's government.

"I don't have any illusions that this will have any effect on Assad's life," she said. "Hopefully, this will be some sort of thorn in his side for decades." □

## Silicon Valley eatery bans 'Make America Great Again' hats

**SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP)** — Patrons won't be served at a Silicon Valley restaurant if they wear a "Make America Great Again" baseball cap.

J. Kenji Lopez-Alt, a chef-partner of the Wursthall restaurant in San Mateo, California, said in a tweet last weekend that he views the hats as symbols of intolerance and hate.

"It hasn't happened yet, but if you come to my restaurant wearing a MAGA cap, you aren't getting served, same as if you come in wearing a swastika, white hood, or any other symbol of intolerance and hate,"

the San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday.

The tweet was no longer available Thursday. But the newspaper reported it had more than 2,100 likes and more than 200 retweets as of Wednesday afternoon.

The red hats, which are sold on President Donald Trump's campaign website, have become polarizing. The hats were worn by some Kentucky high school students involved in a Jan. 18 confrontation with a Native American elder near the Lincoln Memorial.

Lopez-Alt wrote the 2015 book "The Food Lab: Better Home Cooking Through Sci-

ence." He declined further comment to the newspaper, saying that his restaurant has received threatening emails following the tweet. San Mateo resident Jamie Hwang, 42, told the newspaper she has mixed feelings about the ban, saying that San Mateo is diverse and members of her family support Trump.

"I see where he's coming from, but I don't think you should just keep people out because of a hat," Hwang said. Her dining companion Esther Shek, 39, said she believed the hats had "come to represent racism, intolerance, exclusivity." □

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## U.S. prosecutors announce Chinese birth tourism crackdown

By **AMY TAXIN, Associated Press**

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)**

— Dongyuan Li's business was called "You Win USA," and authorities say she coached pregnant Chinese women on how to get into the United States to deliver babies who would automatically enjoy all the benefits of American citizenship. Over two years, the now-41-year-old raked in millions through her business, where mothers-to-be paid between \$40,000 and \$80,000 each to come to California, stay in an upscale apartment and give birth, authorities said.

Li, who was arrested Thursday, is one of 20 people charged in the first federal crackdown on birth tourism businesses that prosecutors said brought hundreds of pregnant women to the United States.

Jing Dong, 42, and Michael Wei Yueh Liu, 53, who allegedly operated "USA Happy Baby," also were arrested. More than a dozen others, including the operator of a third such business, also face charges but are believed to have returned to China, the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles said. While it isn't illegal to visit the United States while pregnant, authorities said the businesses — which were raided by federal agents in 2015 — touted the benefits of having U.S. citizen babies, who could get free public education and years later help their parents immigrate.

They also allegedly had women hide their pregnancies while seeking travel



In this March 3, 2015 file photo, federal agents gather at a nearby parking lot before raiding an upscale apartment complex where authorities say a birth tourism business charged pregnant women \$50,000 for lodging, food and transportation, in Irvine, Calif.

**Associated Press**

visas and lie about their plans, with one You Win USA customer telling consular officials she was going to visit a Trump hotel in Hawaii.

The charges include conspiracy, visa fraud and money laundering. But U.S. authorities said the businesses also posed a national security risk since their customers, some who worked for the Chinese government, secured American citizenship for children who can move back to the United States and once they're 21 and then sponsor their parents for green cards.

"I see this as a grave national security concern and vulnerability," said Mark Zito, assistant special agent-in-charge of Immigration

and Customs Enforcement's homeland security investigations. "Are some of them doing it for security because the United States is more stable? Absolutely. But will those governments take advantage of this? Yes, they will."

Messages left for Li and Dong's attorneys were not immediately returned. Derek Tung, Liu's attorney, said the growing interest among Chinese women to give birth to American babies drew attention to a phenomenon long employed by citizens of other countries.

His client had nothing to do with getting women visas from China but worked almost as a subcontractor to provide housing once they arrived, he said. "My client

is merely the provider. The people who are in China are the ones in charge of everything," he said.

Birth tourism businesses have long operated in California and other states and cater to couples from China, Russia, Nigeria and elsewhere.

In the past, operators sometimes ran into trouble with local code enforcement officials when neighbors in residential areas complained about crowding or excess trash, but they didn't face federal scrutiny.

In 2015, federal agents in California raided roughly three dozen sites connected with the three businesses. More than 20 people were designated as material witnesses but some later fled to China and were

charged with violating federal court orders, and a lawyer who helped them leave the country was convicted of obstruction of justice. This week, a federal grand jury indicted four people who allegedly ran the birth tourism businesses until the 2015 raids, including Wen Rui Deng, 65, who is believed to be in China and accused of operating "Star Baby Care."

That business dated to at least 2010 but advertised having brought 8,000 women to the United States — half of them from China — and claimed to have been running since 1999, prosecutors said.

Each business brought hundreds of customers to give birth in the United States and some didn't pay all of the medical costs tied to their care, prosecutors said. One couple paid the indigent rate for their hospital bills — a total of \$4,080 — even though they had more than \$225,000 in a U.S. bank account they had used to shop at luxury stores including Louis Vuitton, according to court papers. Li, who operated You Win USA and paid in full for a \$2.1 million home in Irvine, California and a new Mercedes-Benz, told an undercover federal agent who was posing as a pregnant Chinese citizen that her company would train her to interview for a visa and pass customs, according to court filings.

At one point, the papers said, she also sent a text message to her husband about the business, saying "After all, this is not legal!" □



# Baltimore prosecutor files petition to erase pot convictions

By DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Baltimore's top prosecutor has filed a rarely used legal petition intended to vacate 3,778 convictions for possession of marijuana, arguing an extraordinary legal strategy is necessary to "right an extraordinary wrong."

In a highly unusual "Maryland v Maryland" filing in state court, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby used a petition called "writ of error coram nobis" that allows a court to reopen cases when substantial error is found that wasn't apparent in initial judgments. The petition, if granted, could wipe out thousands of pot possession convictions.

Mosby's arguments are based on what she paints as an opportunity to achieve retroactive justice by acknowledging racial disparities in how pot possession cases over years were policed and prosecuted in Baltimore, a city under a federal oversight program due to discriminatory and unconstitutional policing.

"The sordid history of marijuana prohibition lies in ethnic and racial bigotry," she writes in the filing, which notes that racial disparities in possession arrests continue to exist in majority-black Baltimore even after Maryland's 2014 decriminalization of amounts less than 10 grams.

Mosby's actions are part of an ongoing national shift with the way criminal justice functions regarding marijuana, which is allowed for some form of medical use in most U.S. states even as it remains illegal under federal law. Simple pot possession is a crime prosecutors in some other American cities including New York, Philadelphia and St. Louis won't pursue.

Her court petition comes the same week she announced her office will no longer prosecute any cannabis possession cases, regardless of the quantity or an individual's criminal record. She argued that limited resources were needed

to address more significant crimes in a U.S. city grappling with chronically high violent crime rates and no shortage of dangerous drug syndicates.

Some have dismissed Mosby's moves this week as a kind of stunt, arguing that Baltimore essentially stopped prosecuting simple pot possession cases years ago. Thiru Vignarajah, an ex-Maryland deputy attorney general who unsuccessfully challenged Mosby in last year's primary for Baltimore's state's attorney job, said that only 78 out of more than 1,100 possession cases actually went forward since 2014.

"Ending prosecutions does not end arrests & changing policy requires partnership — without the police, this is just hollow grandstanding," he tweeted.

She hasn't gotten immediate buy-in from Baltimore's acting police leader, who notes officers are sworn to enforce existing laws made by lawmakers. Interim Commissioner Gary Tuggle stressed that his officers will continue to make arrests for illegal marijuana possession "unless and until the state legislature changes the law regarding marijuana possession." Sheriff Gahler: I wanted to be sure the citizens of Harford County understand, this latest disappointing action of the City State's Attorney has no impact here. We will continue to enforce the State's laws in regards to marijuana possession because that is what we are sworn to do. Tuggle will soon be replaced by New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison, who is starting as Baltimore's acting commissioner on Feb. 11.

Meanwhile, the city's mayor, Catherine Pugh, said she was supportive of what she believes Mosby is trying to address while also stressing that drug dealers fuel violence. She urged state lawmakers to "look carefully at these issues" to figure out a unified approach.

In a phone interview, University of Baltimore law professor David Jaros said

Thursday that it is not yet clear whether Mosby's decisions might Sheriff Gahler: I wanted to be sure the citizens of Harford County understand, this latest disappointing action of the City State's Attorney has no impact here. We will continue to enforce the State's laws in regards to marijuana possession because that is what we are sworn to do. change Maryland's conversation about marijuana and criminal justice in a productive way.

"It's political theater if all it does is get your name out there and nothing changes. But if its politics that promotes change, it's something different," he said.

Jaros pointed out that one criticism of Mosby is that she positions herself among



In this July 27, 2016 file photo, Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, right, holds a news conference near the site where Freddie Gray was arrested after her office dropped the remaining charges against three Baltimore police officers awaiting trial in Gray's death, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

America's "progressive" nearly enough progressive city prosecutors but some policies coming from her office. □



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# European nations create workaround to US Iran sanctions

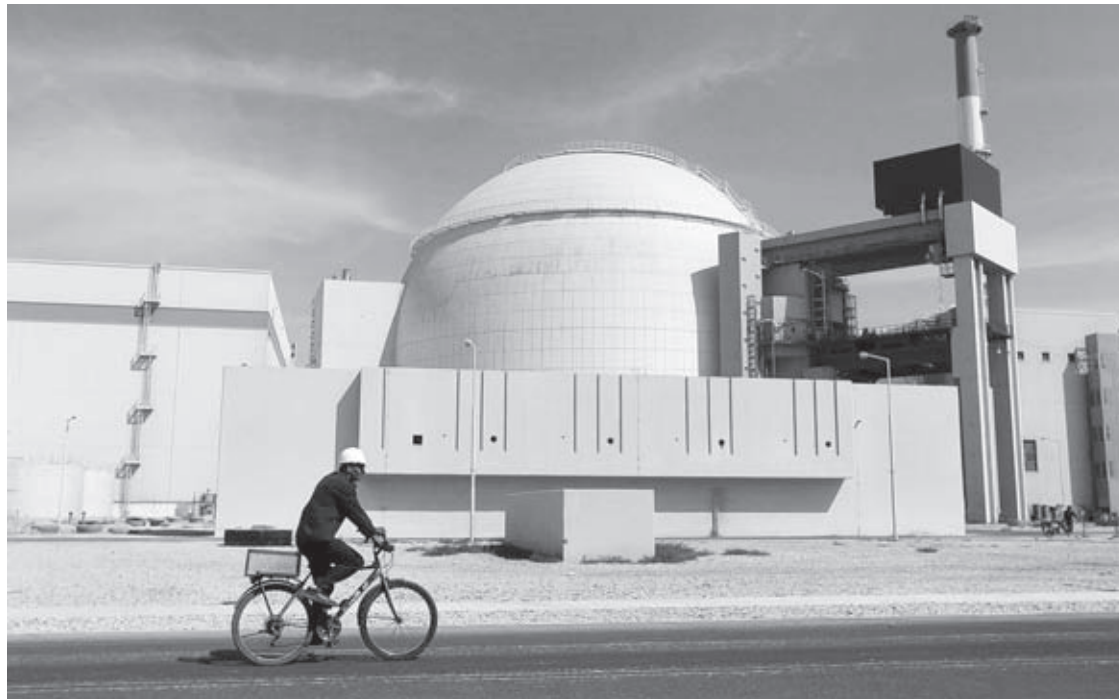
By **DAVID RISING**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Three European countries that have been working to preserve a deal limiting Iran's nuclear capability have established a new system so their companies can continue trading with the Mideast nation without incurring U.S. sanctions, diplomats said Thursday.

The barter-type system set up by France, Germany and Britain is designed to allow businesses to skirt direct financial transactions with Iran and thereby evade possible U.S. sanctions, setting up a potential collision with President Donald Trump's hard-line policies on Tehran.

Once the process is up and running, a financial institution, known as an "Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges" or INSTEX, would run a payment channel, brokering Iranian imports in and European exports out, while insulating the companies involved.

In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of Germany, Britain and France sought to allay Washington's pos-



In this Oct. 26, 2010 file photograph, a worker rides a bicycle in front of the reactor building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, just outside the southern city of Bushehr.

Associated Press

sible fears.

"INSTEX will function under the highest international standards with regards to anti-money laundering, combating the financing of terrorism and EU and U.N. sanctions compliance," their statement said.

The three nations have been working on the plan for months. It follows Trump's

decision last year to unilaterally withdraw from the international accord aimed at preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons in exchange for economic incentives. His administration also introduced new sanctions on Iran.

The other parties to the 2015 agreement — France, Britain, Germany, Rus-

sia and China — have been scrambling to keep the deal alive. In recent months, Iranian officials threatened to resume enriching uranium to higher purities than allowed under the deal, putting pressure on the Europeans to find a way around the sanctions. "This is a clear, practical demonstration that we remain firmly committed to the historic 2015 nuclear deal struck with Iran... for as long as Iran keeps implementing it fully," British Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt said..

The ministers emphasized that their payment channel is "aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran."

"We're making clear that we didn't just talk about keeping the nuclear deal with Iran alive, but now we're creating a possibility to conduct business transactions," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters Thursday after a meeting with European counterparts in Bucharest, Romania.

"This is a precondition for us to meet the obligations we entered into in order to demand from Iran that it doesn't begin military uranium enrichment," Maas said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif welcomed the establishment

of INSTEX, saying in a tweet it was a "long overdue 1st step" to save the nuclear deal.

"We remain ready for constructive engagement with Europe and on equal footing & with mutual respect," Zarif wrote.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, who helped negotiate the 2015 accord with Tehran, said the new system would be "essential for the continued full implementation of the nuclear deal with Iran."

The U.S. State Department said it was "closely following" reports on the European mechanism, which originally was known as a "special purpose vehicle," for details about exactly what would be involved.

"As the president has made clear, entities that continue to engage in sanctionable activity involving Iran risk severe consequences that could include losing access to the U.S. financial system and the ability to do business with the United States or U.S. companies," the State Department said in a statement.

INSTEX is to be headquartered in Paris and overseen by a German banker.

The three foreign ministers said a parallel structure would have to be set up in Iran and other work needs to be done to "address all the technical and legal aspects required to make this vehicle operational."

At the outset, the European institution will concentrate on products that are not currently subject to U.S. sanctions, such as medicine, medical supplies, and agricultural goods.

Many of Europe's biggest companies shut off all commerce with Iran when the U.S. stepped up sanctions, exercising an abundance of caution. The governments of Germany, France and Britain hope the workaround will lure back some trade of non-sanctioned goods, though it's not clear if companies would try to do business through the new state-run system and risk possible U.S. retribution down the road. □

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# Italy slides into recession, darkening outlook for Europe

**MILAN (AP)** — Italy has fallen back into recession, intensifying concerns about the 19-country eurozone economy and a possible flare-up in the debt market jitters that haunted the bloc in recent years. The Italian economy, the third-largest in the eurozone, contracted by a quarterly rate of 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter of

It expanded by 1.8 percent in 2018 overall, its weakest rate in four years. That's lower than had been anticipated a year ago, when the bloc was expected to slow only slightly from 2017's strong 2.4 percent rate. The Italian economy has become an acute source of concern over the past few months, partly as a result of the new populist

the faith of bond market investors. Though most economists think the budget impasse with the Commission has undermined confidence in the Italian economy, the country's premier, Giuseppe Conte, sought to downplay the recession and placed the blame firmly on the trade spat between the United States

and China, which he says has weighed on Italian exports. "This is a transitory factor," he told reporters in Rome. The head of Italy's UNC consumer advocate organization, Massimiliano Dona, said the weak figures raise questions over the Italian government's prediction that the economy will grow by 1 percent in 2019.

He said that could mean the government will have to adjust its spending plans. Italy hasn't been the only reason why the eurozone slowed in 2019. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, suffered an unexpected contraction in the third quarter largely due to changes in emissions standards that hurt auto sales. □



Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte delivers his speech during the inauguration ceremony of the ACSD (Africa Center for Climate and Sustainable Development) in Rome, Monday, Jan. 28, 2019. Associated Press

2018, the national statistics agency said. Following a 0.1 percent drop in the previous three-month period that means Italy is in a technical recession, defined as two straight quarters of economic contraction — just four years after its last one. Italy's recession is one reason why the wider eurozone slowed in 2018, along with uncertainties related to Brexit, the China-U.S. trade spat and new vehicle emissions standards. Though the eurozone is performing better than in the dark days of the debt crisis, which threatened to break up the euro currency, it's still lagging the U.S. economy, which is projected to have grown about 3 percent in 2018. As a result, unemployment in the eurozone is about double the U.S.'s 4 percent at 7.9 percent. The eurozone economy as a whole grew by a meager 0.2 percent in the final quarter, the same as in the previous quarter, according to provisional figures released Thursday by the Eurostat statistics agency.

government's spat with the European Union's executive Commission over its budget plans, which has undermined business confidence and seen Italian borrowing rates in bond markets spike higher. The government, elected against the backdrop of economic disappointment after years — even decades — of stagnant growth, wants to ramp up spending to get the economy going. It wants to provide more social security payments and to roll back a pension reform. The plan means Italy would not reduce its debt load, which at over 130 percent is the highest in Europe after Greece. The EU Commission is still haunted by the memory of the debt crisis, which required eurozone governments, along with some assistance from the International Monetary Fund, to bailout a number of countries. The Commission has insisted that the Italian government rein back on its spending plans lest it loses control of its budget and

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# Breakthrough: Lebanon gets a new government to save economy

By SARAH EL DEEB

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Lebanese political factions agreed Thursday to form a new government, breaking a nine-month deadlock that only deepened the country's economic woes.

Rival political groups had been locked in disagreement over the make-up of a new government since May, after the country's first parliamentary elections in nine years.

Lebanon's powerful Shiite group Hezbollah made significant gains at the expense of the largest Sunni party, headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri, further contributing to traditional horse trading among rival factions to form governments in Lebanon.

A breakthrough became possible after weeks of backroom deals as economic pressures mounted. The rival factions worked out a compromise allowing representation of Sunni lawmakers backed by Hezbollah, increasing the group's allies in the government.

The new government will be headed by Hariri, the Western-backed Sunni politician who has held the job since 2016. The post always goes to a Sunni politician under the country's political system.



**Newly-assigned Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, speaks to journalists at the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.**

Associated Press

The announcement was expected to ease anxiety over Lebanon's sinking economic credentials after international agencies downgraded the country's credit ratings over concerns about the government's ability to pay its massive debt.

Celebrations broke out after the announcement, including huge fireworks that lit up the Beirut sky, and rallies in support of Hariri. Hariri called the new government "a reflection of Lebanon's image in 2019."

The 30-seat government sees an increase in the number of ministries affiliated with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, which is under tightening sanctions from the United States that labels the group a terrorist organization.

The group now holds two ministries and a ministry of state, including for the first time the Ministry of Health,

which has one of the country's largest budgets. Hariri had warned against Hezbollah holding the Health Ministry fearing it would be hit with sanctions too. The new health minister, Jamil Jabbak, is not a member of Hezbollah but is believed to be close to the group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and his personal physician at one point. The Finance Ministry remained in the hands of a Hezbollah ally, Ali Hassan Khalil.

For the first time, the Lebanese government includes four women ministers, doubling their representation. They include Raya al-Hassan, who was named to the powerful Ministry of Interior in charge of internal security. Al-Hassan, a member of Hariri's party, was a former Cabinet minister. Hariri's party also named Violette Safadi to be state minister for women's affairs, a post previously held by a man.

May Chidiac, who lost her arm and leg in an assassination attempt in a 2005 bombing, was named state minister for administrative development by the Christian Lebanese Forces group. Another woman, Nada Bustani, was named by the president's political faction to hold the strategic post of energy minister. Gebran Bassil, the son-in-law of the Lebanese President, remains foreign minister. But Lebanon loses its human rights ministry.

The main pressure appeared to be Lebanon's deepening economic woes and Hariri told reporters the economy will be priority.

"There isn't any more time to waste," he said. "We owe the Lebanese an apology for the delay, especially to the young men and women waiting for a glimmer of hope to fix conditions."

Hariri dodged a question about a contentious issue: relations with Syria. Lebanese factions have been divided over the war in neighboring Syria. Hezbollah has thrown its weight behind the Syrian government in the civil war that broke out in 2011, while Hariri and his political allies were critical, supporting at times the opposition.

□

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## Greece to ratify Macedonia's NATO accession in 'coming days'



**Members of the Greek parliament debate the Prespa Agreement in Athens, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.**

Associated Press

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — Greece will bring Macedonia's NATO accession agreement to parliament for ratification "in the coming days," the government spokesman said Thursday, which will bring into effect the change of the coun-

try's name to North Macedonia. Once parliament ratifies the NATO protocol, Greece's foreign ministry will inform Macedonia's foreign ministry of the result, a move which will automatically bring into effect the name change, govern-

ment spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos said. He didn't give a specific date. The name change deal, dubbed the Prespa Agreement after the border lake where it was signed last year, ends a 27-year dispute between the two neighbors that had kept the former Yugoslav republic out of NATO and the European Union. Greece argued that the use of the name "Macedonia" implied territorial claims on its own northern province of the same name and usurped Greek history and culture, and had blocked its neighbor's efforts to join NATO over the issue.

Tzanakopoulos said the nearly three-decade dispute had given rise to "the monster of lies, nationalism and extreme historic revisionism" in Greece. □





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# Xi's tough talk on Taiwan backfires, as Tsai support surges

 By RALPH JENNINGS  
 JOHNSON LAI

Associated Press

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** — Chinese President Xi Jinping sought to push Taiwanese closer to unification with a new year speech mixing carrots and sticks.

That hasn't panned out. Instead, his independence-leaning Taiwanese counterpart, Tsai Ing-wen, has enjoyed a surge in support following a brutal drubbing of her political party in local elections last year, according to public opinion surveys and interviews.

The residents of this self-governing island, with its vibrant and well-established democracy, are as much inclined as ever to resist China's demands despite rising political, economic and military threats from Beijing.

Xi's offer to Taiwan "is a total scam," said Kuo Lin-han, 26, a Chinese Culture University student in Taipei.

Kuo was referring to China's proposal of a "one country, two systems" arrangement that Xi renewed in his Jan. 2 speech, under which Taiwan would accept Chinese sovereignty while being allowed to retain its own economic and legal systems.

That's based on the framework Hong Kong was granted when it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997, an arrangement that has become increasingly frayed as Beijing expands its political influence in the former British colony.

Jarringly for many Taiwanese, Xi mixed his outreach with a reminder that Beijing had no intention of dropping its threat to use military force to bring the island under its control.

Xi's speech was seized on by Tsai, who went on a four-day media blitz in Tai-



In this Nov. 6, 2008, file photo, pro-Taiwan supporters stand on top of police barricades and shout slogans in protest against the visit of China's top negotiator in Taipei, Taiwan.

Associated Press

pei that appears to have significantly bolstered her support among voters.

In a telephone survey published Jan. 21 by the Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation, 34.5 percent of the 1,074 respondents gave her a thumbs-up, an increase of about 10 percentage points from after the November elections. Two-thirds said they want Taiwan to continue its self-rule or declare formal independence.

Separately, the Taiwan government's Mainland Affairs Council found in a Jan. 17 survey of 1,078 people that 75.4 percent oppose "one country, two systems," 74.3 percent dispute the "one China" condition for formal dialogue and 77.2 percent oppose China for holding pledges that it could use force against Taiwan if needed.

Both polls had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

"The most important thing is that Xi Jinping made the speech on Taiwan and Tsai Ing-wen gave a rare re-

sponse, which received a high level of support," foundation chairman You Ying-lung said. "The China factor helps her come out of a trough."

Younger Taiwanese have a firm sense of local identity that stands in the way of China's idea for unification, said Wu Yi-hsuan, 27, an energy science and engineering doctoral student. "We want to be Taiwanese Taiwan rather than Chinese Taiwan," Wu said, referring to the terminology Beijing often uses for the island that many consider condescending. "Regarding the fact that the People's Republic of China has never ruled Taiwan for a second, this (two systems) policy of China's is more an invasive, aggressive and offensive one."

China ruled Taiwan loosely under the former Qing dynasty and the island was made a Japanese colony in 1895. Handed over to Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists at the end of World War II, it split again from the mainland

in 1949 during the civil war with the Communist Party under Mao Zedong.

The Communists have regarded Taiwan since then as a breakaway territory that must eventually be brought into the fold. Many commentators say they believe Xi sees that as his historical mission, prompting major increases in China's military budget and renewed pressure on the island, including cutting off contacts with Tsai's government.

China's huge economy and global clout may have some effect, but most Taiwanese are unimpressed with how Beijing has followed through on its earlier pledges, said Andrew Yang, secretary-general of the think tank Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies.

"Hong Kong is totally controlled by mainland China," Yang said. "Even though they have their autonomy, they have limited freedom, and certainly there is no democracy in Hong Kong, as far as Taiwanese are

concerned."

"I feel that the China government is unpredictable especially after Lee Ming-che was taken away by them," said Catta Chou, 30, a worker in a non-governmental organization, referring to a Taiwanese citizen sentenced in China in 2017 to five years in prison for spreading pro-democracy information.

"China is definitely crazy," Chou said.

Despite such sentiments, China is unlikely to come up with a new proposal in the immediate future, said Yun Sun, East Asia Program senior associate with the Stimson Center think tank in Washington, D.C.

Beijing's leaders "know how unpopular the proposal has been and will be," Sun said. "But before they have a good alternative, this is and will be the biggest deal for them."

Voters had complained before the Nov. 24 midterm elections that Tsai had either grown too distant from China to build economic ties or hadn't stood up enough to Beijing's military and diplomatic pressure.

Though she won the presidency by a landslide in 2016 — largely due to concerns about China's influence — and her Democratic Progressive Party received its first-ever legislative majority, Taiwanese voters have in the past shown a willingness to try new approaches.

Many in the business community are already urging Tsai to climb down from her refusal to meet Beijing's "one China" demand, largely as a way of easing pressure on the island.

"One country, two systems' could bring more people in and out, and this is good," said dried fruit merchant Yu Chen-ching, 65. □



# El Salvador's leading candidate targets graft

By **MARCOS ALEMAN**

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador**

**(AP)** — Salvadorans have watched as internationally sponsored investigative bodies in neighboring Guatemala and Honduras brought high-profile cases that took down corrupt politicians and businesspeople. Nayib Bukele wants to give his compatriots their own version of that.

Bukele, a young businessman and former mayor of El Salvador's capital, is the front-runner in Sunday's presidential election and polls indicate his focus on fighting endemic graft has him well positioned to break the hold of the two parties that have dominated the government for three decades.

If elected, the 37-year-old promises the creation of a Commission Against Impunity in El Salvador, or Cicies for its initials in Spanish. He says he hopes to secure support from abroad for such an effort, as has been the case for Guatemala (the United Nations) and Honduras (the Organization of American States).

"We have said it loud and clear: Regardless of whether it involves someone from our party or any other party, whoever it is, the Cicies will have to act against a corrupt person," Bukele told The Associated Press in an interview this week.

He is the only one of four candidates on the ballot to make such a promise.

Bukele made his political debut in 2012 with the ruling FMLN party, which arose from a leftist guerrilla movement after peace accords ended El Salvador's civil war. He was elected mayor of the small municipality of Nuevo Cuscatlan, then three years later he won the mayoralty of San Salvador.

But his frequent public criticism of the FMLN and current President Salvador Sanchez Ceren led to his expulsion, accused of violating party principles.

Today he is the standard bearer of the Grand Alliance for National Unity—its initials, GANA, mean "win" in Spanish — and is chal-



**Presidential frontrunner Nayib Bukele, of the Grand National Alliance for Unity or GANA, is prepped for an interview, in San Salvador, El Salvador, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

lenging the political dominance that has reigned since the peace accords. A recent poll gave him support from about 40 percent of Salvadorans, compared with 23 percent for businessman Carlos Callejas of the conservative Arena coalition. He was even further ahead of the FMLN's Hugo Martinez, a former foreign minister.

El Salvador's last six presidents have come from either Arena or FMLN.

Three of them have been accused of corruption: Arena's Francisco Flores (1999-2004), who died while under house arrest; Tony Saca (2004-2009, also from Arena), who last year pleaded guilty to embezzling hundreds of millions in government funds; and the FMLN's Mauricio Funes (2009-2014), now a fugitive in exile in Nicaragua, wanted for purportedly diverting \$350 million.

So it's perhaps unsurprising that Salvadorans respond to Bukele's vow that eliminating graft is essential to moving the country forward. He has campaigned

on the slogan of "There will be enough money when nobody steals," and says Cicies would investigate corruption dating back three decades — 20 years when Arena was in charge, and the last 10 under the FMLN.

"It is clear that there has been money, but it has gone to line the pockets of the corrupt," Bukele said.

In their harshest assessments, Bukele's rivals and critics suggest he could be trouble. Miguel Fortin Magana, who leads a movement called Libertad, or "freedom," accuses him of being "narcissistic and megalomaniacal" and calls him "the only presidential candidate who is dangerous."

Martinez has criticized Bukele for avoiding debating publicly, accused him of not being willing to answer uncomfortable questions and questioned whether that could have negative implications for a free press.

Political analyst Alvaro Artiga said polls have favored Bukele for over a year but it

remains to be seen exactly how that will play out in the vote. To his mind, the candidate evinces "a rejection of control" for his public criticisms of institutions such as the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the Attorney General's Office.

Bukele said he hopes to model Cicies on the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, which has come under fire from Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales since it pushed several investigations targeting him, family members and associates. Morales denies any wrongdoing.

Bukele said he has not spoken to the United Nations but has had conversations with the OAS's secretary-general. He did not give details.

On foreign relations, Bukele said he would promote strong ties with the United States and also examine all deals between the current government and China. Last year Sanchez Ceren switched El Salvador's diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing, a move

that prompted Washington to recall its ambassador.

"We have to review that deal this outgoing government made at the last minute in exchange for some tons of rice," Bukele said. "We are going to review it, but we will not necessarily break relations with China." Bukele also had strong words for Venezuela and Nicaragua, two countries with governments accused of increasing authoritarianism and repression of dissent.

"For us the government of (Venezuelan Nicolas) Maduro is not a government that allows democratic plurality," Bukele said. "It does not allow for there to be a real opposition, and that is not democratic."

Under Sanchez Ceren, El Salvador has been one of the countries in the region backing Maduro during Venezuela's political crisis, even as the U.S., Brazil, Canada, Argentina and other nations recognized the head of the opposition-controlled congress as interim president in a challenge to Maduro's power.

As for Nicaragua, Bukele said he could not remain quiet while "seeing that hundreds of young students have been murdered by the regime of (Daniel) Ortega, a president who says he is from the left but is no different from (Anastasio) Somoza, the dictator they kicked out — now he is doing the same thing."

Bukele argued that he has an advantage over his rivals in condemning what he sees as anti-democratic actions, "because we are not bound to these governments."

Bukele studied law at Jose Simeon Canas Central American University but left before getting a degree. At 18, with support from his father, he founded a publicity agency.

He is married and awaiting his first child. Born to a Roman Catholic mother and a Muslim father, he proclaims his belief in God but not organized religion.

If no candidate wins a majority Sunday, a runoff will be held. □



# LOCAL



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For Karin, it all started with a personal experience of (sexual) workplace harassment. The period of isolation in which the harassment took place and the emotional rollercoaster you suddenly find yourself within when you speak-up drove her to her goal: to step up for other victims. She wrote a book about her experience and now she is the founder of AWH, as well as an international speaker about the topic.

She explains Aruba Today that discussion and political debate need to raise the necessary awareness thus are essential to break the taboo that still rests on sexual workplace harassment. This App will for sure help future victims and bystanders to step up for their rights and get the necessary help.

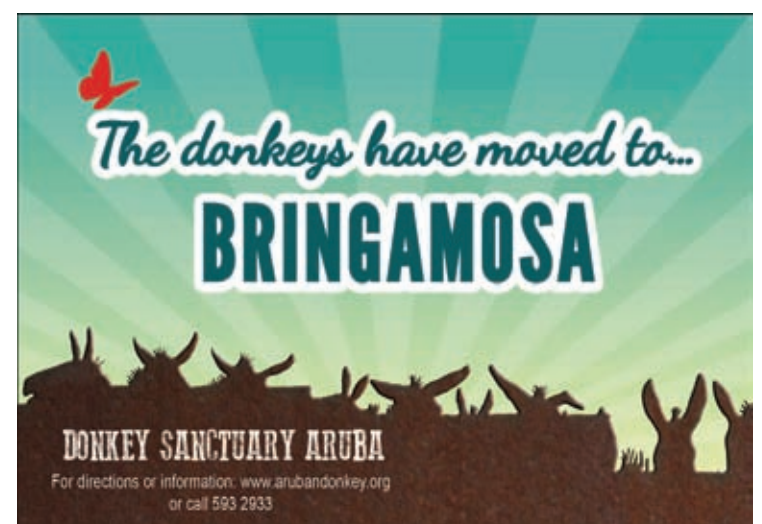
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## Travel Tips

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2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
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6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
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8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on [www.airportaruba.com](http://www.airportaruba.com).





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## Local Farmers Market & Ostriches

**MATIVIDIRI** — There is an Ostrich Farm in Aruba, did you know? At this beautiful place where ostriches are kept and taken care of you can have double fun this coming weekend! This Sunday, February 3rd, the Ostrich Farm organizes the monthly local farmers market.

The farmers market's goal is to promote products and artwork made and produced in Aruba. More and more local farmers are actively growing vegetables, fruits, farming animals such as chicken and pigs and selling them to the public. What to think of locally made Pica de Jello (hot sauce), a great souvenir to take

home. Or products handmade by Aruban artisans that offer jewelry and glass blowing handicrafts. Indulge in the local ambiance at the Savanna Lodge Bar & Restaurant that sits beneath a large, shady gondola, open on three sides to the cooling Aruban breezes and rugged countryside. Decorated with unique African figurines from Zimbabwe and with 27ft long wooden hand crafted tables you and your friends or family can admire the market's offerings, relax and enjoy a great meal and an ice cold beer or tropical fruit shake. You may of course also join in on a tour of the ostriches.

Ostrich Farm Tours are daily every half hour



9 – 3:30 pm, no reservations needed for small groups. The guided tours are an activity that is both informative and interactive. For authentic souvenirs, guests can browse around the Farmers Market and Art Shop.

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**EAGLE BEACH** — “This is what Aruba needed”, states one of the clients of the new **The Beach Bar** located across the street from Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort. The bar is part of Divi Resorts, but accessible to all: guests, non-guests and locals. On the water’s edge, take your seat in paradise. Cocktails, cool sounds and low-slung sofas are the ingredients for this success formula. This is your toes in the sand with a drink in the hand-fav spot!

What makes a great beach bar? Marrit Fleur, Food & Beverage Manager, for sure knows how to answer that question. “What we really wish to create here is a relaxed, nice beach vibe. The lounge seats, the bar itself, the paintings on the wall and the surfboards hanging from the ceiling add to that laid back feel. At the same time it is a chic beach bar, trendy in concept with a lounge setting and a local DJ every day.” Shining stars are the eight cocktails the bar is offering as they are something different! Here you won’t get your standard Aruba Ariba or Sex-On-The-Beach as The Beach Bar surprises you with new, hip mixes like Tito’s Lemonade or Bourbon Ice tea, and even a vintage one like Aperol Spritz presented in a fresh, new version. Besides these eight delights the bar has six craft beers in their assortment as well as the regular non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks.

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“Hop by in the morning to serve you a freshly brewed Puro coffee, pure in taste and quality, while you wake up slowly gazing over de blue Caribbean sea”, as Marrit pictures. “Food items that go great with that are our carrot cake, chocolate brownies, white hazelnut cheesecake or Panini’s and wraps. For the little ones we have ice-cream popsicles from Gelatissimo, for sure a hit.” Important to mention also is that The Beach Bar uses biodegradable plastics and no straws, following their green guideline. Is it the sand-in-your-toes factor or the backdrop of beach and ocean or the sunsets or the people you meet, in combination with the before mentioned ingredients you will come back here. Simply because great service, inventive drinks, and some of the most beautiful scenery around makes you do that!



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# SPORTS



In this Nov. 16, 1997, file photo, Jeff Gordon, from Pittsboro, Ind., celebrates his second NASCAR Winston Cup Championship at the Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga.

Associated Press

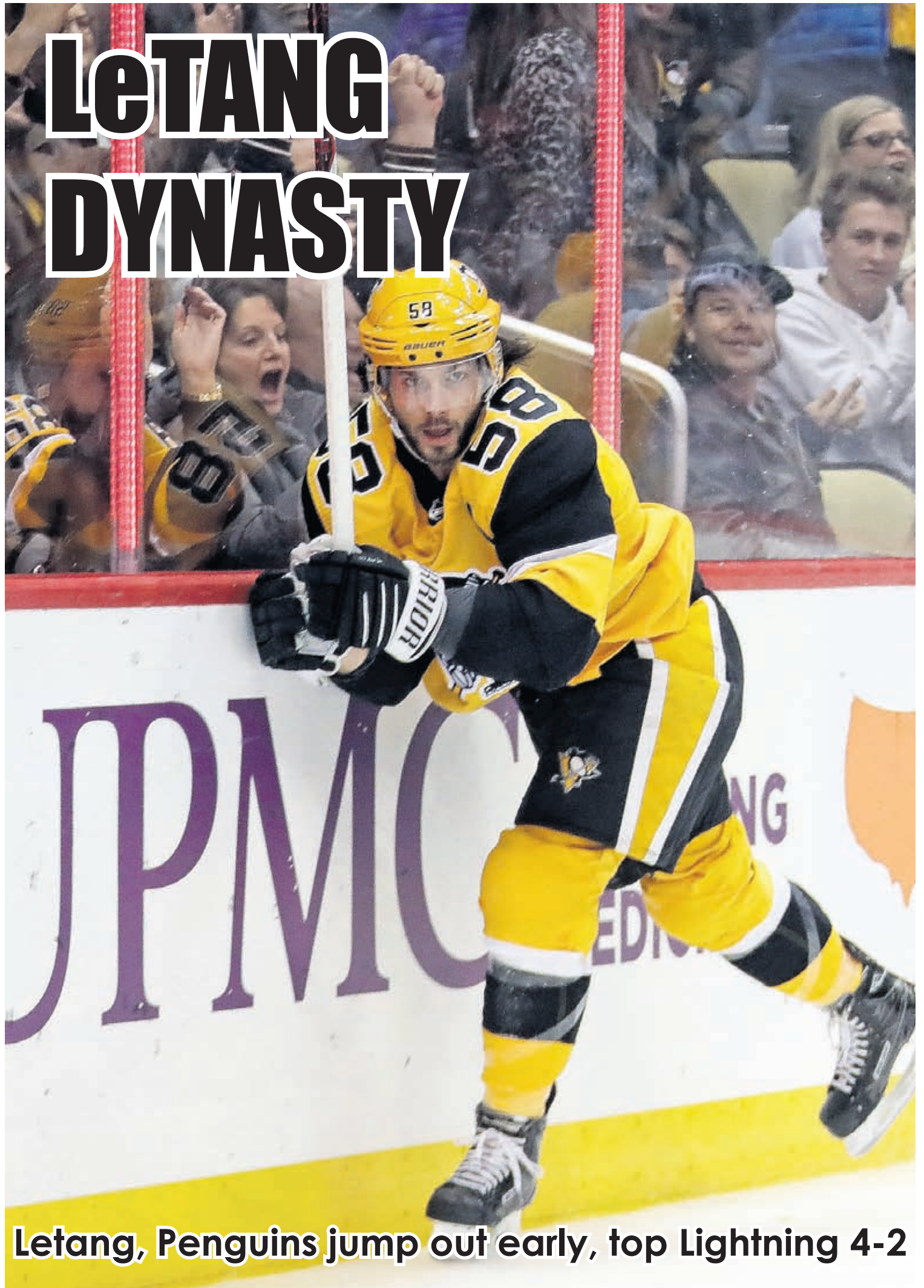
## Jeff Gordon altered NASCAR landscape on way to Hall of Fame

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jeff Gordon graduated from racing sprint cars on "Thursday Night Thunder" to the big leagues of NASCAR, arriving with a silly mustache, a mullet and a briefcase that held little more than his Nintendo Game Boy.

The 20-year-old from California, who briefly relocated to Indiana for its lowered age requirements to race, was very much an outsider in a series with deep Southern roots. The fragile state of open wheel racing had thrown a roadblock into Gordon's career path and he'd detoured to stock cars as the best option.

The "Wonder Boy" almost immediately took NASCAR mainstream. Gordon is largely credited for pushing the sport beyond a regional series to one with an international presence.

Continued on Page 23



## Letang, Penguins jump out early, top Lightning 4-2

Pittsburgh Penguins' Kris Letang celebrates his goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Tampa Bay Lightning in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Olympic lessons make Shiffrin feel at ease going into worlds

By **ERIC WILLEMSSEN**

A year after the Pyeongchang Olympics, Mikaela Shiffrin is set for another multi-medal chase. And there are some more records on the table, too. The Feb. 5-17 skiing world championships in Are, Sweden, will see Shiffrin return to the resort where she celebrated her first World Cup win in 2012, triumphing in slalom when she was only 17.

It's the same venue, however, where the Eagle-Vail, Colorado, native suffered her only major injury three years later, hurting her right knee in warmups for a giant slalom.

"I have had incredible moments there and also really heartbreaking moments," the two-time overall World Cup champion told The Associated Press. "All together, Are is a really special place. It has a lot of emotion for me."

Over the next two weeks, the resort in central Sweden's Jamtland province might become even more special to her.

In the Feb. 16 slalom, the last women's race, Shiffrin can become the first skier, male or female, to win gold in the same event at four consecutive world cham-

pionships. That's not an unlikely scenario in a season where she has raised her career total of World Cup slalom wins to 37, breaking the record set by her childhood idol, Marlies Raich of Austria.

"The biggest thing that the records mean for me is that when I was a little girl, I was dreaming of being the best skier in the world," Shiffrin said. "And those records are just validation that I am living my dream. So that's the most I can realize out of them. Otherwise it's just numbers on papers at the end of the day."

Should everything go according to plan, Shiffrin has a chance at becoming the most decorated American woman at major championships. To do so, she would have to make the podium in the slalom, her signature event, along with the three other events she is expected to enter — the super-G, the Alpine combined and the giant slalom.

Her current haul of seven medals, including Olympic gold in slalom (2014) and GS (2018), leaves her three short of Lindsey Vonn's best mark, and four short of Bode Miller's overall American record of 11.

Regardless if Vonn can start



In this Nov. 25, 2018, file photo, United States' Mikaela Shiffrin smiles after winning the women's World Cup slalom ski event in Killington, Vt.

Associated Press

at the worlds in her injury-marred last season, Shiffrin doesn't feel like she is now taking over as the torch carrier of U.S. ski racing.

"Lindsey was definitely the biggest star in U.S. ski racing for a while and for sure I am doing, I don't know, big things right now," Shiffrin said. "I don't feel like I am going to be holding more of the torch than I was this year or last year or the year before. I started kind of coming into my own successes well before Lindsey was ready to retire so it doesn't feel so much like passing the torch."

Shiffrin knows too well that success at major championships can't be planned, even for an athlete as dominating as her.

A year ago, she was touted a possible gold medalist in all five Olympic events, but the grueling World Cup schedule unsettled her in the weeks before. And when bad weather forced a rescheduling of races, Shiffrin ended up competing in only three events. While she won the GS and took silver in the combined event, she missed out on a medal in her strongest discipline. "It's always a learning experience at the Olympics," she said. "The most important thing is just that there are some things that are out of your control, some things you cannot predict and cannot prepare for. Then it's best to just let it go." This time, Shiffrin scaled down her

schedule in recent weeks to recharge. She didn't enter speed events in St. Anton, Austria, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, while skipping two downhill races in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Also at the worlds, races will be picked carefully by her team, consisting of coaches Mike Day, Jeff Lackie and her mother, Eileen Shiffrin. While GS and slalom in the second week are certainties, the super-G — an event Shiffrin has started winning this season — and the Alpine combined remain tentative at this point. "It's going to be a decision we make last-minute," said Shiffrin, who is set to race in Maribor, Slovenia, on Friday and Saturday. □



Kiki Bertens of Netherlands returns the ball to Ysaline Bonaventure of Belgium during the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy-2019 tennis tournament match in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Kiki Bertens and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova are

set for a rematch of their Australian Open encounter after both reached the St.

## Bertens beats Bonaventure in St. Petersburg opener

Petersburg Ladies Trophy quarterfinals Thursday.

Bertens easily saw off Belgian qualifier Ysaline Bonaventure 6-4, 6-2 in their second-round match, while Pavlyuchenkova saved five of six break points on her way to a 6-4, 6-4 upset of former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

The eighth-ranked Bertens lost to Pavlyuchenkova two weeks ago in the second round of the Australian Open 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Pavlyuchenkova went all the

way to the quarterfinals on that occasion before losing to Danielle Collins.

Bertens leads 3-2 in career matches against Pavlyuchenkova, though the Russian has won their last two meetings. Thursday's win over Bonaventure was Bertens' first match since her Australian Open loss thanks to a bye in the first round in St. Petersburg.

Earlier Thursday, Aryna Sabalenka recovered from a second-set slipup to reach the quarterfinals, beating

Alison van Uytvanck 6-1, 6-4.

In her first match since reaching a career-high ranking of No. 10 on Monday, the Belarusian trailed 3-1 in the second before winning four games in a row. Sabalenka, who had a first-round bye, will next face Ekaterina Alexandrova, who beat qualifier Tereza Martincova 7-5, 6-2. Sabalenka defeated Alexandrova 6-3, 6-3 this month on her way to winning the Shenzhen Open title. □



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## Davis picked as an All-Star reserve; 4 first-timers make it

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

New Orleans has an All-Star for the sixth straight year. That is, unless he gets traded first.

Pelicans standout Anthony Davis — only three days removed from having his trade request made known publicly — was one of the 14 players announced Thursday as reserves for the All-Star Game in Charlotte. Davis wants to be swapped out of New Orleans by the Feb. 7 trade deadline, so it remains unclear if his uniform for the All-Star contest on Feb. 17 will bear a Pelicans logo or not.

It's the sixth consecutive All-Star nod for Davis. The Pelicans aren't sure if he'll play for them again, though there's also no guarantee that he gets traded by next week either.

"That's something that will obviously have to be discussed about what's best for him and what's best for our team," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said.

The other Western Conference reserves were Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, Denver's Nikola Jokic, Portland's Damian Lillard, Golden State's Klay Thompson, San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge and Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns. Jokic said he wasn't surprised, though some of the people closest to him, he said, were apparently caught a bit off-guard.

"My girlfriend started to cry and my brother started yell-

ing and screaming," Jokic said on TNT, which broadcast the reserve announcements.

Indiana's Victor Oladipo was selected as one of the Eastern Conference reserves, even though his season is over because of injury. The other reserves from the East were Toronto's Kyle Lowry, Milwaukee's Khris Middleton, Philadelphia's Ben Simmons, Washington's Bradley Beal, Detroit's Blake Griffin and Orlando's Nikola Vucevic — the first Magic player to make the game since Dwight Howard in 2012.

Jokic, Middleton, Simmons and Vucevic are the first-time All-Stars.

Fans, media and players collaborated on the voting for the starters. The reserves were picked by NBA coaches.

"It's truly an honor to be selected as an All-Star by the coaches in our league," Griffin said.

Dallas rookie Luka Doncic didn't make the cut, getting denied in his bid to be the first rookie since Griffin in 2011 to be picked for the game. Only seven rookies in the last 30 years have been All-Stars — Griffin, Yao Ming, Tim Duncan, Grant Hill, Shaquille O'Neal, Dikembe Mutombo and David Robinson.

Utah's Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert both fell short, as did the Los Angeles Clippers' Tobias Harris. Phoenix's Devin Harris also wasn't picked, despite en-

tering Thursday 11th in the NBA in scoring and 10th in assists. Rebounding leader Andre Drummond of Detroit also didn't make the game.

Up next: The All-Star draft, to be handled by team captains LeBron James and Giannis Antetokounmpo on Feb. 7. James will have the first overall pick, and they'll keep going until each side has 12 players for the matchup. James and Antetokounmpo will pick the starters first — with that pool including Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Toronto's Kawhi Leonard, Boston's Kyrie Irving, Charlotte's Kemba Walker, Golden State's Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant, Oklahoma City's Paul George and Houston's James Harden.

Meanwhile, for the second time in three years, the fans' hopes to see Miami's Dwyane Wade play one more All-Star Game seem dashed.

There is one path for Wade to make the All-Star Game, and that's if NBA Commissioner Adam Silver chooses him as Oladipo's replacement. But there's no shortage of other candidates from the East, with Philadelphia's Jimmy Butler, Brooklyn's D'Angelo Russell and Boston's Jayson Tatum all figuring to be worthy of consideration.

Wade got the second-most votes of any Eastern Conference guard in 2017 and the second-most votes of any East guard again



New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis watches from the bench during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019, in Houston.  
Associated Press

this year — and in both cases, he didn't make the team even as a reserve. Under the system that was in place through 2016, he would have been a starter. But the NBA went to a weighted voting system in 2017, one that put less emphasis on the fan vote. So Wade's career ends with 12 All-Star selections. He's retiring after this season.

"I don't care. I don't know how many times I've got to say it," said Wade, whose stance throughout the All-Star voting process was he would play if selected, but he wasn't going to lobby for a farewell appearance. "Whoever gets into the All-Star Game, congratulations to them. If it's their first time, congratulations. I know how much it meant."q



# Penguins hold off NHL-leading Lightning 4-2

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — After a baffling loss to a last-place team and with a visit from the NHL's best club looming, the Pittsburgh Penguins called a players-only meeting on Tuesday in an effort to clear the air.

"We needed an answer," defenseman Kris Letang said.

For a night, they found one. Playing with an edge they lacked two nights earlier against struggling New Jersey, the Penguins turned away the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-2 on Wednesday to send a message that when they are fully engaged, they remain as dangerous as ever.

"We all know that Tampa Bay right now is at the top of the league," Letang said. "They're a really good measuring stick for any team. Tonight was important, especially (after) the two points that slipped the night before. It was a good effort, and I think it brought the best out of us."

Matt Murray finished with 33 saves to keep the NHL's highest scoring team in check, and Letang tied Hall of Famer Paul Coffey's franchise record for career goals by a defenseman.



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) puts the puck past Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) for a goal in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

Letang's shot from the right circle 6:02 into the second period beat Andrei Vasilevskiy to give him 12 goals on the season and 108 since his NHL debut in 2007. Letang, a five-time All-Star, called the milestone "surreal." He's still a long way off from Coffey's 396 career goals over 21 NHL seasons. "Growing up watching him,

I never thought I would have my name next to his," Letang said.

Riley Sheahan, Phil Kessel and Sidney Crosby scored during a first-period outburst by Pittsburgh. Evgeni Malkin picked up two assists to become the fifth Russian-born player in league history to reach 600 career assists then drew a

5-minute fighting major in the third period after tussling with Tampa Bay star Steven Stamkos.

"That's (his) best game in a while," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said of Malkin. "He was on the puck. You notice him. He was a presence every shift."

Murray withstood an early barrage by Tampa Bay to

hand the Lightning just their fourth regulation loss in their last 25 games.

Vasilevskiy allowed three goals on five shots before settling down to finish with 18 saves, but Tampa Bay couldn't recover in its return from a 10-day break. J.T. Miller and Stamkos scored late in the third period to keep the Lightning from being shut out for the first time this season, but it wasn't nearly enough to prevent Tampa Bay from falling to 2-12-2 in its last 14 regular-season visits to Pittsburgh.

"We just kind of got behind the eight-ball and they capitalized on it their couple chances they got," Stamkos said. "It was just an uphill battle from there. So I thought we stuck with it, but just too sloppy to start the game."

Sullivan expressed frustration at his team's scatter-shot play against the Devils, when turnovers and disinterested play in front of Murray dropped Pittsburgh to 1-7-1 against last-place teams. Two days later against an opponent with the inside track to claim the Presidents' Trophy, the effort and the results were far different. □

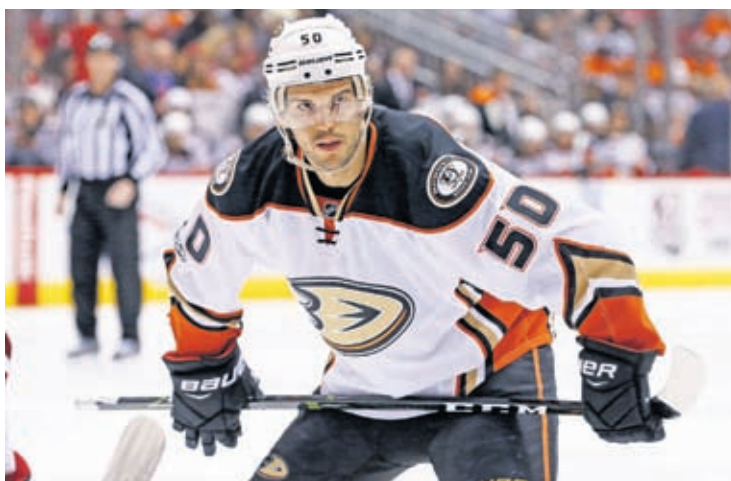
## Faceoff ace Antoine Vermette retires after 14 NHL seasons

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

Center Antoine Vermette retires as one of the best faceoff specialists of his generation.

Vermette announced on Thursday he was calling it a career after 14 NHL seasons with the Ottawa Senators, Columbus Blue Jackets, Arizona Coyotes, Chicago Blackhawks and Anaheim Ducks. The 36-year-old from Quebec won the Stanley Cup with the Blackhawks in 2015 and most recently played for the Ducks, but he didn't sign with a team after becoming a free agent last summer.

"I am immensely grateful for all these incredible years punctuated by memorable moments that I will cherish forever," Vermette said in a statement sent through the



In this Jan. 14, 2017, file photo, Anaheim Ducks center Antoine Vermette pauses before a faceoff during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Arizona Coyotes in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

NHL Players' Association. "It was a privilege sharing my daily life with teammates, to forging friendships that will endure well beyond the victories and defeats."

In the faceoff circle, Ver-

mette had far more victories than defeats. He won 56.6 percent of his faceoffs, the ninth-best mark since the league began tracking the statistic in 1997-98.

Vermette's 8,948 faceoff

wins are 14th-most all-time, and he led the league in faceoff percentage in his final season in 2017-18. Long-time agent Allan Walsh said Vermette constantly worked on his faceoff techniques always looking for an edge and was proud of his expertise in that department. "He was a guy that would always be relied upon to go out there in key moments of a game, especially faceoffs in the defensive zone or offensive zone to go out there and win the faceoff," Walsh said. "We know how important possession is nowadays. Being able to control the puck on the (power play or penalty kill) or the last minute and a half of the game with a faceoff in the O-zone with the goalie on the bench is sometimes half the battle

right there."

Vermette put up 228 goals and 287 assists for 515 points in 1,046 regular-season games. He had 28 points and a faceoff percentage of 57.9 during 97 playoff games and helped the Blackhawks win the Cup in 2015 after being picked up at the trade deadline.

"Obviously, he played a different role based on how strong the team was and especially down the middle," Walsh said. "He's a guy that whether it was to be more of a two-way shut-down guy or to be counted on to provide offense, he had some years where he scored a lot of goals and put up a lot of points."

Vermette also had a 482-game ironman streak that lasted from March 2009 until October 2015. □



# Celtics overcome Kyrie Irving's absence to rout Hornets

**BOSTON (AP)** — Jaylen Brown had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Jayson Tatum scored 20 points and the Boston Celtics rolled over the Charlotte Hornets 126-94 on Wednesday night despite Kyrie Irving's absence. Terry Rozier had 17 points and tied a career high with 10 assists in place of Irving, the star guard who missed his second straight game with a left hip strain.

Marcus Morris scored 15 points, Al Horford had 14 and Gordon Hayward 12 to help Celtics win for the seventh time in eight games. Kemba Walker had 21 points for Charlotte.

**NUGGETS 105, PELICANS 99**  
**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Nikola Jokic had 20 points, 13 rebound and 10 assists for his eighth triple-double of the season and Denver beat undermanned New Orleans, Malik Beasley scored 22 points, and Monte Morris added 20 to help the

Northwest Division-leading Nuggets win their fourth straight. Kenrich Williams hit five of nine 3-point shots and scored a career-high 21 for the scrappy Pelicans. For the second night in a row, they played without four usual starters and a top reserve. Their only available starter, Jrue Holiday, had 22 points.

**TIMBERWOLVES 99, GRIZZLIES 97, OT**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Karl-Anthony Towns hit a buzzer-beating desperation shot in overtime to lift Minnesota past Memphis.

Memphis led twice during overtime, but Towns helped Minnesota closed it out. On the final possession, Andrew Wiggins ran the clock down to six seconds before shooting a pull-up 3. The rebound fell to the right side, where Towns grabbed it, dribbled once and floated up a shot as he faded toward the corner.

Towns scored all 16 of his



Charlotte Hornets forward Myles Bridges, left, dives as Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward, right, grabs a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019. The Celtics defeated the Hornets 126-94.

Associated Press

points after halftime. Jerryd Bayless had 19 points and a career-high 12 assists for the Timberwolves on a frigid night with an announced crowd of 13,615 in Minnesota.

Mike Conley had 26 points and eight assists for Memphis.

**MAVERICKS 114, KNICKS 90**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 14 points in what might

have been his final appearance at Madison Square Garden, Luka Doncic warmed up after an airball on his first shot in the arena to score 16 points, and Dallas routed New York. □

## Knicks deal Porzingis to Dallas, say he requested a trade

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
AP Basketball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kristaps Porzingis won't be rejoining the Knicks once his knee is healed.

Instead, he's on his way to Dallas after a surprising trade the Knicks say the All-Star forward requested Thursday.

The Knicks dealt Porzingis to the Mavericks in a seven-player swap that also netted New York two future first-round draft picks and possibly enough room to afford two top free agents this summer.

"As is standard for this time of year, we were exploring various options on potential trades," Knicks general manager Scott Perry said in a statement. "Considering the uncertainty regarding Kristaps' free agent status and his request today to be traded, we made a trade that we are confident improves the franchise."

Porzingis has been sidelined for nearly a year after tearing

his left ACL. The Knicks said recently he would undergo testing during the middle of February that could have determined if he would be able to return this season.

If it does, it will be in Dallas, where he can form an intriguing international frontcourt with rookie Luka Doncic. Both played professionally in Spain before coming to the NBA as top-five picks.

The Knicks acquired Dennis Smith Jr., DeAndre Jordan, Wesley Matthews in the deal, while also sending guards Tim Hardaway Jr., Trey Burke and Courtney Lee to Dallas. Neither team said when the Knicks would get the two first-round picks.

The 7-foot-3 Porzingis was the No. 4 pick in the 2015 draft and averaged 17.8 points and 7.1 rebounds in New York, where he was expected to be the Knicks' franchise player for years. But they declined to give

him a contract extension before this season, and now by trading him and Hardaway seem instead to be gearing up to pursue players in free agency.

Hardaway has two more years and about \$37 million left on his contract, and moving that was necessary if the Knicks were going to find a way to open the most cap space possible.

New York (10-40) has the worst record in the NBA and is headed toward landing a high pick in the draft. Then the Knicks will be set up to be big spenders — perhaps for two top players — in a free agent market that could include Kevin Durant, Kawhi Leonard, Kyrie Irving and more. But they won't have Porzingis, who they once believed was the kind of talent who could help attract those players. The Latvian has 3-point range on offense and shot-blocking skills on defense, and had made his first All-Star team



In this Jan. 25, 2018, file photo, New York Knicks forward Kristaps Porzingis, of Latvia, reacts after fouling out during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets on Thursday, in Denver.

Associated Press

just before tearing his ACL after a dunk against Milwaukee on Feb. 6.

He had been frustrated with the franchise before, skipping his exit meeting after his second season before returning to Europe for the summer. But Knicks coach David Fizdale had said Porzingis was frequently around the team even while he couldn't play, taking part in meetings and some activities on the court.

The most valuable player in the deal from the Knicks' standpoint is likely Smith, the

point guard they passed on with the No. 8 pick in 2017 when they instead took Frank Ntilikina. The Mavericks took Smith one pick later, and he posted the second triple-double of his career Wednesday when Dallas won at Madison Square Garden.

Jordan is a former U.S. Olympian and top defensive center, but if it's unclear if the Knicks will hold onto him. They are focused on playing their young players, so could look to move Jordan. The trade deadline is next Thursday. □



# AP analysis: Few minority NFL coaches in top offensive jobs

By **DAVE CAMPBELL and JOSH DUBOW**  
AP Pro Football Writers

After all the points were piled up in the second-highest scoring season in NFL history, the popular prototype for a head coach became predictably clear. Teams on the annual coaching carousel this winter searched for their own version of prodigy Sean McVay, the creative play caller and quarterback whisperer who took the Los Angeles Rams to the Super Bowl in his second season at the helm.

An Associated Press study of coaching staffs for the 2018 season found only four minorities in the stepping-stone positions of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, just 7.1 percent of 56 jobs. That lack of minority coaches in the pipeline helped contribute to the NFL's sharpest-ever one-year drop in minority head coaches, causing concern among advocates for diversity, who declared there has been unsatisfactory progress 16 years after the Rooney Rule was implemented.

The rule named after late Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney was put in place before the 2003 hiring season and now requires all teams to interview at least one minority candidate for any head coach or general manager vacancy. But the AP study found that nearly three-quarters of all minority assistants were either running backs, receivers, defensive backs coaches, or in lower-level positions like quality control coaches — jobs that historically have not directly led to head coaching opportunities.

So when five black head coaches were fired this past season — Todd Bowles (Jets), Hue Jackson (Cleveland), Vance Joseph (Denver), Marvin Lewis (Cincinnati) and Steve Wilks (Arizona) — only one of the eight overall openings went to a minority with New England defensive assistant Brian Flores set to be hired by Miami after the Super Bowl. Thus, the ranks of minority

head coaches in a league whose players are nearly 70 percent black has been reduced from eight to four in just one year. Not since the first year of the Rooney

turned a four-win team into a Super Bowl participant in just two seasons, might have accidentally had some effect. McVay's 35-year-old quar-

es with ties to Dungy and his Tampa 2 defensive system were the hot commodities. Four of Dungy's former defensive assistants — all minorities — went on to get

of the 32 head coaches in the NFL came from defensive backgrounds. This year, 20 of 32 will be offense-minded. In 2015, six of the seven new hires had defensive backgrounds. In the four offseasons since then, 21 of the 28 head coaches hired came from offensive backgrounds.

"For whatever reason, the opportunity for minority coaches seems to be stronger on the defensive side of the ball and the coaches that have advanced to become head coaches from the minority perspective, most of them have come from the defensive side," said Steelers president Art Rooney II, son of Dan Rooney. "It's something we need to look at: 'How do we improve the opportunities on the offensive side for minority coaches?'"

There were 11 minority defensive coordinators in the league in 2018, along with Flores, who has called signals this season for New England but was listed officially as the linebackers coach. But only one offensive coordinator (Eric Bieniemy of Kansas City) was a minority. Tampa Bay recently doubled that total by hiring Byron Leftwich, who started 2018 as one of only three minority quarterbacks coaches in the league before also becoming interim offensive coordinator in Arizona.

Of the 20 offensive head coaches in the league, 16 served as offensive coordinators before getting hired and 17 spent time as quarterbacks coaches or played the position in college or the pros. That is a path that only a handful of minorities are on.

"I think teams are looking too much at the play callers versus a guy that can be the CEO of an organization, a face of the organization, a guy that can lead a football team and get the most out of his players," said Lynn, who spent 14 seasons as a running backs coach before serving as an interim offensive coordinator for Buffalo the year before getting hired by the Chargers. □



This Dec. 30, 2018, file photo shows, Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin during an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Rule will a season begin with fewer minority head coaches in the NFL: Flores, Anthony Lynn (Chargers), Ron Rivera (Carolina) and Mike Tomlin (Pittsburgh).

To be fair, none of the firing or hiring decisions made this offseason was viewed in a vacuum as unjust. Since the start of the 2016 season, Bowles, Jackson, Joseph, Lewis and Wilks combined for a record of 50-132-2, a woeful winning percentage of .277. Collectively, however, this development has prompted diversity advocates to call on the NFL to consider changes that could help ensure this is a blip rather than a trend.

"Dan's proposal was to slow things down and see what coaches you want and try to come up with a minority candidate or candidates that fit that criteria, and people are not doing that now," said Hall of Fame member Tony Dungy, who was one of two minority head coaches in the NFL when the Rooney Rule was enacted in December 2002.

The success of McVay, who was hired at age 30 by the Los Angeles Rams and

terbacks coach Zac Taylor is expected be the next head coach in Cincinnati despite only five games of experience as an interim offensive coordinator in the NFL.

Matt LaFleur, 39, replaced Mike McCarthy as head coach in Green Bay with just two years of offensive coordinator experience on his resume. Kliff Kingsbury got the top job in Arizona shortly after being fired as a college head coach at Texas Tech.

"I think it is cyclical," Dungy said. "I also think a lot of owners don't know or understand what goes into being a successful head coach. If I coach my quarterback really well I will have a good team, of course, and they feel the guy who coaches the quarterback really will be a successful head coach, but we have seen that's not necessarily the case. For every Doug Pederson or Sean McVay, who are great, we see (many) who don't work out."

The hunt for the next McVay is similar to what happened starting more than a decade ago when coach-

head coaching jobs: Tomlin, Herm Edwards, Lovie Smith and Leslie Frazier.

Raheem Morris also got a head coaching job after joining the staff with Tampa Bay after Dungy was fired, and Dungy's former offensive coordinator in Indianapolis, Jim Caldwell, got head coaching opportunities with the Colts and Detroit Lions.

After a season in which the four conference finalists were the four highest-scoring teams in the league, the emphasis is firmly on offense.

"Ratings are up. Points scored are higher. People love offense. The rules have gone to offense. So there's a bias toward offensive head coaches right now," Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper said, while praising the NFL's efforts to enhance ground-level opportunity and aim for more minorities in the paths that typically lead to head coach positions.

Of the 19 minority head coaches in the league since 2002, 14 had primarily defensive backgrounds including Bowles, Joseph, Lewis and Wilks. In 2015, 17





In this Sept. 21, 2018, file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani lines out against the Houston Astros during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Houston.

Associated Press

## Angels' Ohtani progressing, won't be ready for opening day

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

AL Rookie of the Year Shohei Ohtani has been medically cleared to resume full strength training on his right arm following Tommy John surgery, although he will not be ready to hit for the Los Angeles Angels by opening day. Angels general manager Billy Eppler provided a positive update Thursday on the recovery of his two-way star. Ohtani's latest

appointment with Dr. Neal El Attrache went "really well," according to Eppler. Ohtani was cleared to begin weight training Friday as the right-hander rebuilds strength on his right side. The Angels expect Ohtani to be their designated hitter at some point in 2019, but he will not be active when the Angels open the regular season in late March, Eppler says. Ohtani is not expected to pitch again until 2020. □

## Keys, Collins among U.S. Fed Cup team vs Australia

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — No. 17 Madison Keys and No. 23 Danielle Collins will lead the U.S. Fed Cup team against Australia next month. Sofia Kenin and Nicole Melichar will join them on the team announced Wednesday by the U.S. Tennis Association and team captain Kathy Rinaldi. The 25-year-old Collins recently reached her first Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open. The first round of the World Group will be held Feb. 9-10

in Asheville, North Carolina. The U.S. will face No. 14 Ashleigh Barty and No. 46 Daria Gavrilova, along with Priscilla Hon, Kimberley Birrell and Astra Sharma on a hard court at U.S. Cellular Center. The 22-year-old Barty is coming off a quarterfinal appearance at the Australian Open. The U.S. is 9-5 all-time vs. the Aussies. The Americans won their last meeting in the 2016 World Group Play-off. The winner will face Germany or Belarus in the semifinals on April 20-21. □



In this Feb. 27, 2011, file photo, Jeff Gordon celebrates winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

JEFF GORDON

Continued from Page 17

Gordon won four championships, his 93 victories rank third all-time and his savvy brand management made him one of the most recognized drivers in the world. He changed the way NASCAR was marketed, brought in Fortune 500 companies as sponsors and became the first driver to appeal to a broader sports audience as a pop culture reference and an entertainer. Gordon was the face of NASCAR from his 1993 rookie season until his 2015 retirement.

He made NASCAR attractive and viable to an entire generation of current stars. Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson got his break from Gordon, and reigning champion Joey Logano grew up a Gordon fan. Current NASCAR star Kyle Larson has photos meeting his childhood hero. Without Gordon, Hendrick Motorsports maybe isn't one of the most successful teams in all of sports.

"IndyCar was always on my radar growing up on the West Coast but then here's this guy with a really bad mustache making his way in stock car racing," Johnson recalled. "My dad is a huge sprint car-midget fan and it's like 'Oh my gosh, that's Jeff Gordon, right?' ... The doors that he opened for drivers that did

not grow up in the South, that grew up racing in the dirt, he really changed that whole outlook for owners. A lot of opportunities came through those doors that he opened."

On Friday night, Gordon will be inducted into NASCAR's Hall of Fame. He was a first-ballot selection but fell shy of the first unanimous pick in the 10-year history of the Hall at 96 percent. He will be inducted with NASCAR team owners Roger Penske and Jack Roush. Also inducted will be Davey Allison and Alan Kulwicki, drivers killed in aviation accidents two months apart at the prime of their careers. Gordon had just six Cup starts against Kulwicki and his debut in the 1992 season finale was the race in which Kulwicki won his only NASCAR championship. Gordon shared the track with Allison 17 times and finished sixth in the final victory of Allison's career.

It's impossible to know if Gordon's on-track resume would be as strong if Allison had not died in a 1993 helicopter crash at Talladega Superspeedway. Allison was 32 and coming off consecutive third-place finishes in the Cup standings. He was on the cusp of becoming the driver to challenge Dale Earnhardt's reign and carry NASCAR for the next decade.

The job fell to Gordon and it didn't take him long to

get up to speed. His first victory came in his second season, his first championship a year after that. He won 10 races the next season but lost the championship to his teammate, and Gordon recovered to reel off 23 victories in claiming the 1997 and 1998 titles.

"He was just the whole package. Jeff could do anything he wanted, he had that kind of talent," said Hall of Fame team owner Rick Hendrick, who will induct Gordon.

"You see a lot of guys with talent, but I haven't seen a lot of guys who had it all. He could go to Wall Street and meet people, walk into a boardroom and sell a program, give him a script before he's got to go on stage and he glances it over and just walks out there and nails it. He's on the cover of 'Fortune,' and hosts 'Regis and Kelly' and 'Saturday Night Live' and just nails it. Everything he does, he's a pro and he took us from a regional sport to national sport to an international sport and he put Hendrick Motorsports on the map."

Gordon is now a NASCAR analyst for Fox Sports, involved in numerous other ventures and the father of two children who've traveled the world with him and wife Ingrid Vandebosch. He's also a key member of Hendrick's executive team and the listed owner of Johnson's car. □



# Apple busts Facebook for distributing data-sucking app

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **FRANK BAJAK**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Apple says Facebook can no longer distribute an app that paid users, including teenagers, to extensively track their phone and web use. In doing so, Apple closed off Facebook's efforts to sidestep Apple's app store and its tighter rules on privacy.

The tech blog TechCrunch reported late Tuesday that Facebook paid people about \$20 a month to install and use the Facebook Research app. While Facebook says this was done with permission, the company has a history of defining "permission" loosely and obscuring what data it collects.

"I don't think they make it very clear to users precisely what level of access they were granting when they gave permission," mobile app security researcher Will Strafach said Wednesday. "There is simply no way the users understood this."

He said Facebook's claim that users understood the scope of data collection was "muddying the waters." Facebook says fewer than 5 percent of the app's users were teens and they had parental permission. Nonetheless, the revelation is yet another blemish on Facebook's track record on privacy and could invite further regulatory scrutiny.



This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo shows the Facebook app icon on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

And it comes less than a week after court documents revealed that Facebook allowed children to rack up huge bills on digital games and that it had rejected recommendations for addressing it for fear of hurting revenue growth.

For now, the app appears to be available for Android phones, though not through Google's main app store. Google had no comment Wednesday. Apple said Facebook was distributing Facebook Research through an internal-distribution mechanism meant for company employees, not outsiders.

Apple has revoked that capability.

TechCrunch reported separately Wednesday that Google was using the same privileged access to Apple's mobile operating system for a market-research app, Screenwise Meter. Asked about it by The Associated Press, Google said it had disabled the app on Apple devices and apologized for its "mistake."

The company said Google had always been "upfront with users" about how it used data collected by the app, which offered users points that could be accrued for gift cards. In

contrast to the Facebook Research app, Google said its Screenwise Meter app never asked users to let the company circumvent network encryption, meaning it is far less intrusive.

Facebook is still permitted to distribute apps through Apple's app store, though such apps are reviewed by Apple ahead of time. And Apple's move Wednesday restricts Facebook's ability to test those apps — including core apps such as Facebook and Instagram — before they are released through the app store.

Facebook previously pulled an app called Onavo Pro-

tect from Apple's app store because of its stricter requirements. But Strafach, who dismantled the Facebook Research app on TechCrunch's behalf, told the AP that it was mostly Onavo repackaged and rebranded, as the two apps shared about 98 percent of their code.

As of Wednesday, a disclosure form on Betabound, one of the services that distributed Facebook Research, informed prospective users that by installing Facebook Research, they are letting Facebook collect a range of data. This includes information on apps users have installed, when they use them and what they do on them. Information is also collected on how other people interact with users and their content within those apps, according to the disclosure.

Betabound warned that Facebook may collect information even when an app or web browser uses encryption.

Strafach said emails, social media activities, private messages and just about anything else could be intercepted. He said the only data absolutely safe from snooping are from services, such as Signal and Apple's iMessages, that fully encrypt messages prior to transmission, a method known as end-to-end encryption. □

# China appeals to U.S. to accept its technology progress



In this Aug. 23, 2017, file photo, a visitor looks at a robotic hand powered by Kinfinitry Glove, developed by the German Aerospace Center, on display at the World Robot Conference at the Yichuang International Conference and Exhibition Centre in Beijing.

Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — China urged Washington on Thurs-

day to accept its industrial development after U.S. in-

telligence officials said Beijing steals or copies foreign technology, as the two sides prepared for another day of talks aimed at ending a tariff war over Beijing's technology ambitions.

It is "totally unreasonable to make random accusations," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. On Wednesday, U.S. intelligence officials told Congress that China is the biggest commercial and military threat to the United States. A separate report this week said Beijing will steal or copy technologies it cannot make itself.

"The United States is the

world's top power in terms of technology, we acknowledge that," Geng said. "But we hope that the US can see the scientific and technological progress of other countries with an open and inclusive attitude. It must allow others to make progress while developing itself."

On Monday, China's biggest technology company, Huawei, was indicted on U.S. charges including technology theft.

The U.S. has objected to Chinese plans for state-led development of advanced technologies that American officials say violate Bei-

jing's market-opening commitments.

President Donald Trump wants to see a rapid decline in the chronic U.S. trade deficit that could be difficult to achieve without fundamental changes to China's approach to developing its economy and lifting living standards for its 1.4 billion people.

The negotiators meeting in Washington face a March 2 deadline: the Trump administration is scheduled to escalate its tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports from 10 percent to 25 percent if a deal is not struck before then. □



# Buying a home by age 35 is worth it now - and later

By BETH BUCZYNSKI

Associated Press

Nicole Christianson, a 26-year-old sales rep, was tired of writing big checks for tiny apartments. And she wanted to do more with her cash than stash it in a savings account. One night, she and her husband Thure, 28, took a look at their newly combined finances and uncovered a pleasant surprise: Together, they had saved enough for a 5 percent down payment on the affordable fixer-upper right across the street from their Milwaukee apartment. They closed in December 2017, and Nicole Christianson says they're happy to finally be "making something that's ours."

## MILLENNIALS' HOMEOWNERSHIP GOALS

Many in Christianson's age group are chasing that feeling. Eighty-two percent of young adults say owning a home is a priority, according to NerdWallet's



In this Jan. 4, 2019, file photo people walk by a real estate office in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood.

Associated Press

2018 Home Buyer Report. If they can make it happen, most will be first-time homebuyers, but that "if" looms large.

Millennials (those born from

1981 to 1997) are buying houses at lower rates than when previous generations were the same age, and it's not hard to see why. Saving up for a down payment

and qualifying for a mortgage can feel like pipe dreams for young adults grappling with student debt, underemployment and high rent costs.

Still, millennials are a optimistic lot, and research shows there are big rewards in store for those who find a way to buy their first home sooner rather than later.

## HOW BUYING YOUNG CAN PAY OFF LATER

Of today's older adults, those who bought their first home from ages 25 to 34 accumulated the most housing wealth by their 60s — a median of around \$150,000, according to a report by the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research organization.

In contrast, the median housing wealth for those in their early 60s who bought later (ages 35 to 44), was about half as much, at \$76,000. Homeowners who bought after they were 45 had about \$44,000 in housing wealth by their 60s.

"Housing wealth" is another term for equity, which is the difference between the home's market value and an owner's mortgage balance. □

# Huawei rival Nokia profits from demand for 5G networks

JARI TANNER

Associated Press

**HELSINKI (AP)** — Telecoms gear provider Nokia reported Thursday a rise in fourth-quarter earnings thanks to strong demand for new-generation mobile networks, the so-called 5G systems that have been the focus of a high-stakes dispute between the U.S. government and Nokia rival Huawei.

Nokia's net profit for the October-December rose to 741 million euros (\$852 million) from 716 million euros a year earlier. Sales grew 3 percent to 6.9 billion euros. CEO Rajeiv Suri said the company's performance is expected to improve further this year as "a fast and meaningful shift" into 5G networks takes place.

While fourth quarter figures were above analyst predictions, Suri noted that 2019 was off to a slow start with operators' spending on 5G "soft" during the first six months.

Market for the faster but

more expensive 5G networks was expected to turn "robust" in the latter part of the year and to substantially pick up in 2020-21 with operators worldwide updating their networks and technology, he said.

"I'm a big believer in 5G driving productivity growth in economies, driving GDP growth," Suri said in an interview with Finnish public broadcaster YLE.

Nokia, which is based in Espoo, Finland, said North America, Japan, China, South Korea and the Nordic countries are regions where the new technology will see its commercial launch.

Suri was tight-lipped in commenting on the troubles currently facing Chinese competitor Huawei, which was Monday indicted on U.S. charges including technology theft.

There are also allegations that Huawei, the world's leading provider of networks, could allow the Chinese government to spy in



This Thursday, April 27, 2017 file photo shows the headquarters of Finnish telecommunication network company Nokia in Espoo, Finland.

Associated Press




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 Website: [www.arubaqualityapartments.com](http://www.arubaqualityapartments.com)

certain countries through its systems. Some industry experts believe Huawei's legal troubles could benefit Nokia and its Nordic rival, Ericsson. "We're following the situation closely. We're here to help our clients when they need it," Suri told YLE. "There's not much more to say about this." □



**Have you ever wish you travel to Aruba with just a carry-on ?**

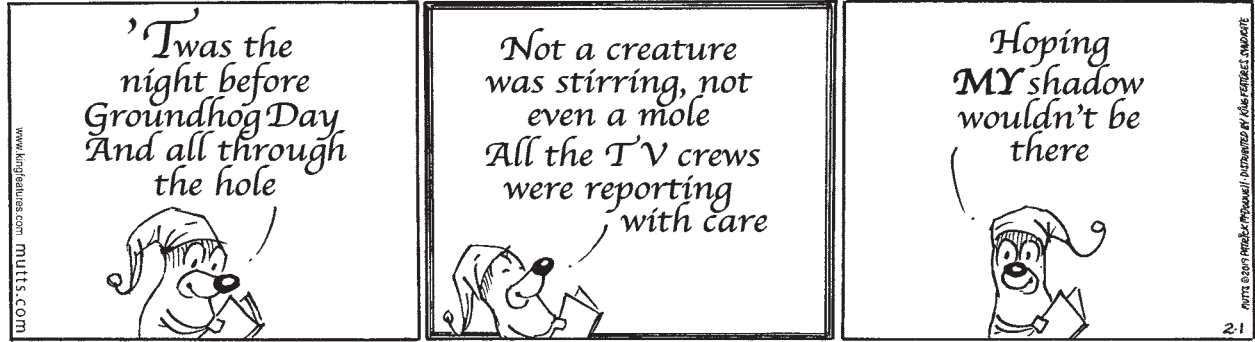
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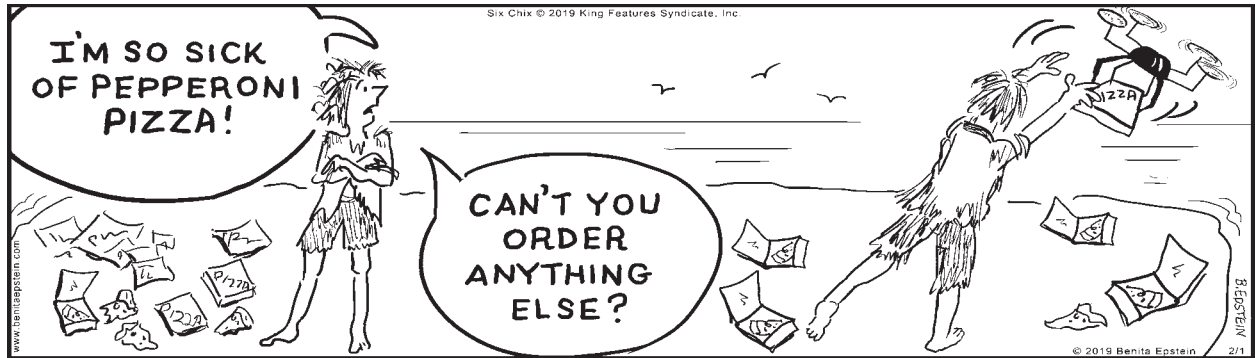
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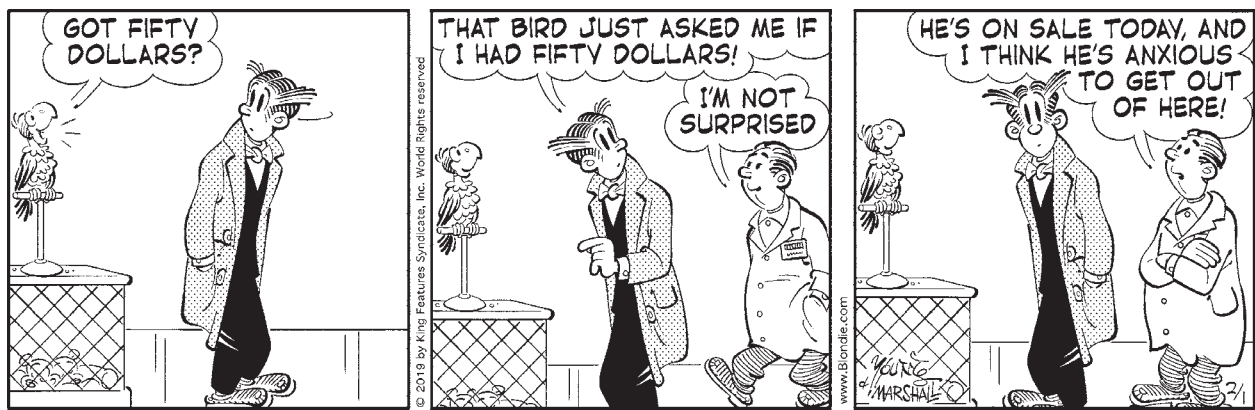
Mutts



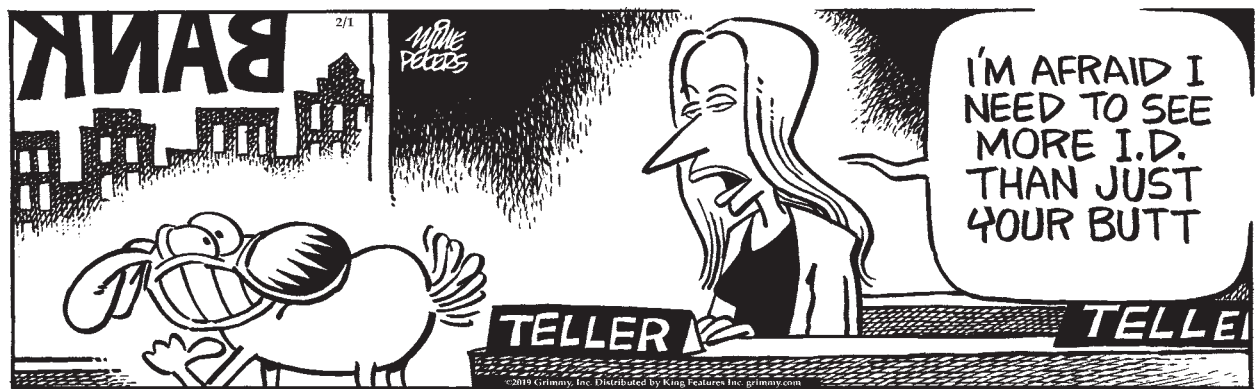
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4					3		
			5		1			
7		2			6			4
					8		4	
	5	7				2	1	
	9		3					
8			1			7		5
			6		5			
		3					8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

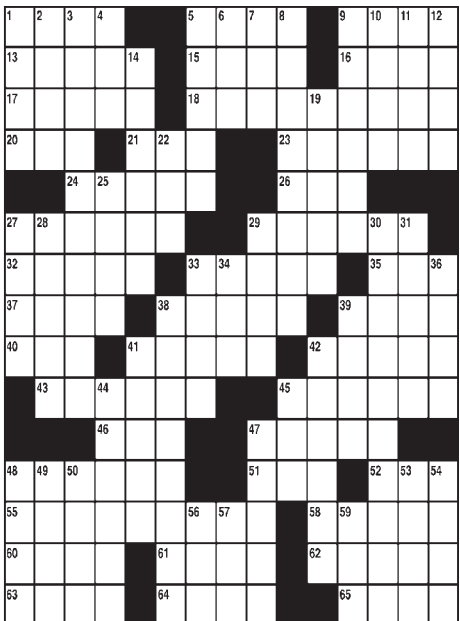
1	4	7	5	3	2	9	6	8
3	9	6	4	1	8	2	5	7
2	5	8	9	7	6	4	3	1
7	6	5	3	2	9	1	8	4
8	1	2	7	4	5	6	9	3
4	3	9	8	6	1	5	7	2
9	8	3	1	5	4	7	2	6
6	7	4	2	9	3	8	1	5
5	2	1	6	8	7	3	4	9

ACROSS

- 1 Come to naught  
5 Mast  
9 Crumbly cheese  
13 Possessed  
15 UTEP or USC  
16 Pearl Harbor's island  
17 Standard car feature  
18 Treatments for pampered feet  
20 Iris' location  
21 Afternoon snooze  
23 Brass instrument  
24 Close friend  
26 Tit for \_\_\_\_  
27 Monastery  
29 Chess piece  
32 Desert refuge  
33 Improve a home's curb appeal  
35 Margaret's nickname  
37 Passionate  
38 Injured arm support  
39 Extend across  
40 Early August baby  
41 Yesterday: abbr.  
42 Warm jacket  
43 Catches in a trap  
45 Most rational  
46 Role on "Alice"  
47 Moves furtively  
48 Part of an address  
51 Walk \_\_\_\_; some NYC apartments  
52 Weep  
55 Mentor  
58 Tiny fruit  
60 Elderly  
61 Actor's part  
62 Adamant refusal  
63 Head honcho  
64 Earned a traffic ticket  
65 Circus shelter

DOWN

- 1 Golf course shout  
2 Out of town



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/1/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	L	O	W	A	C	H	E	S	S	E	P	T
R	O	P	E	D	R	O	O	P	H	A	I	R
A	G	E	D	M	A	G	N	A	C	A	R	T
D	O	N	F	I	T	S	A	L	L	A	Y	
	H	A	U	T	E		F	R	O			
S	H	A	D	E	S		T	R	E	M	O	R
C	A	N	A	L		N	O	W	A	S	T	R
A	N	D	Y	D	E	C	A	Y	S	P	U	R
T	O	E	M	I	T	T	S	A	O	R	T	A
	I	D	L	E	R	S		E	L	D	E	S
		O	L	E		P	A	P	A	S		
S	P	R	A	T		L	E	S	S	I	S	
M	A	I	N	S	T	R	E	E	T	P	I	L
O	N	C	E	W	E	A	V	E	E	V	I	L
G	E	A	R	O	D	D	E	R	P	E	E	L

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2/1/19

- 41 Kilmer's famous poem  
42 Clergyman  
44 Improves; makes right  
45 Have dinner  
47 Enticed  
48 Strikebreaker  
49 African nation
- 50 McClanahan & others  
53 Hotpoint appliance  
54 "Sesame Street" fellow  
56 Cut off  
57 "Miss"; Univ. of Miss.  
59 in; admit



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\$2250  
wk 36 Unit E303 2br/2bath  
\$1999  
wk 37 Unit A203 2br/2bath  
\$1999  
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561-200-6904 all deeded

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Wks 5 & 6/1315 (\$18,000/wk)  
Wks 5 & 6/1521 (\$20,000/wk)  
Wk 7/1308 (\$18,000)  
Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)  
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# Sharks drawn to warm waters by Israeli coastal power plant

By **ALON BERNSTEIN** and **ISABEL DEBRE**

**HADERA, Israel (AP)** — A giant power plant with billowing smoke may not look like the most natural habitat for sea life. But the hot water gushing from an industrial plant in Israel's northern city of Hadera has drawn schools of sharks that are increasingly endangered by overfishing in the Mediterranean Sea. Now the hotspot is also drawing tourists.

Sandbar and dusky sharks have been sighted around the power plant for decades, but scientists only started collecting data two years ago. Although they are still trying to count the smatterings of sharks nearby, researcher Aviad Scheinin said the hundreds flocking exclusively to the Hadera power plant every winter qualifies as "a legitimate and rare phenomenon."

"The paradox that we see here is that this is not a natural environment ... and you cannot see it anywhere else in the vicinity," said Scheinin, manager of the top predator project at the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station, established by the University of Haifa. "This phenomenon is influenced and created by men, both with the power plant and the sea's increasingly warm water."

The shifting climate of the Mediterranean Sea has been creating a bizarre boon for sharks, which thrive in and chase warm water. Expert say the warm water stimulates shark metabolisms, improves their breathing cycles and facilitates their pregnancies.

"The spectacle is logical, but still very mysterious," said Alen Soldo, co-president of the Shark Specialist



In this Monday, Jan. 21, 2019 photo, a 6 foot (1.8 meter) sandbar shark is caught by researchers from the predator project at the Morris Kahn Marine Research Station established by the University of Haifa in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of the northern Israeli city of Hadera.

Associated Press

Group at the International Union for Conservation of Nature based in Switzerland.

He said the power plant's water temperature — 10 degrees warmer than the rest of the sea — is what likely attracts the sharks to Hadera from deeper, colder waters during the winter season. Beyond this, though, a great deal remains unknown. "We know sharks love this water, and we can hypothesize, but we can't say with certainty exactly why," he said.

Soldo added that although he hadn't heard of sharks congregating at power plants outside Israel, he could name a few other Mediterranean hotspots, such as coral reefs near Beirut, where sharks swarm in a similarly random way, perhaps driven by salinity and temperature levels.

Scientists say the Mediterranean Sea has never been warmer, both because of climate change and the

recent expansion of the Suez Canal, which opened the floodgates to Red Sea waters, among the warmest in the world.

A recent study, published last fall in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, found that climate change is steadily heating the Mediterranean Sea by 0.4 degrees every decade, making the region among the hardest hit in the world.

"The winters are not as cold as they used to be here, and they are no longer a limiting factor for sharks," Scheinin said. "Many new

shark species are coming to the eastern Mediterranean from colder areas and establishing populations."

On a recent trip, Scheinin steered his small boat of researchers along the coast and cut the motor. The team bobbed in the currents of the power plant discharge, straining to spot slender shadows whipping by in the turquoise water.

A sudden churning in the water jolted the crew to action. A five-foot-long (1.5 meter-long) sandbar shark, ensnared by ropes,

popped up at the boat's ledge. The researchers leaned over and wrangled with it, planting a high-tech tag on its dorsal fin to track its movements before setting it free.

"It's ironic that all of our knowledge of sharks currently comes from the very fisheries that are threatening them," said Eyal Bigal, the lab manager of the project.

The Morris Kahn Station's top predator team is working to change this, pulling together the first comprehensive body of data about the understudied and endangered Mediterranean shark species.

Overfishing, spurred by demand along with lax fishing laws in neighboring countries like Lebanon and Syria, has depleted the Mediterranean shark population by over 90 percent since the 1950s, researchers say. An absence of top predators imperils the balance of the entire marine ecosystem. "If you erase the ones at the top, the food chain will collapse," Soldo said. "New species may emerge and start preying on populations crucial to human food security. Whole life forms may go extinct."

Hadera's hotspot for sharks is now attracting visitors curious about the creatures and the threats they face.

□

## Thousands of Belgian teens skip school for 4th climate march

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Thousands of teenagers in Belgium skipped school for the fourth week in a row Thursday in an attempt to push authorities into providing better protection for the world's climate.

Police say the march through Brussels drew at least 12,500 students, and another march in eastern Liege had at least as many protesters as the youth movement spread further across the country. In Leuven, close to Brussels, there were more than

3,000 protesters, including many primary school pupils.

The sustained success of the marches comes despite some school measures to dissuade students who continue to stay away every Thursday. It started with a few thousand four weeks ago and swelled to 35,000 last week.

The protests have kept a focus on climate change as a political pressure point before national and European Union elections, after 70,000 demonstra-

tors held a climate march through Brussels on Sunday. "They left us a planet in a bad shape so it is our job to change that," said 17-year-old student Manon Wilmart. "But we can do it. We are younger and we know that we can do it. we are in the mood to change the climate, to change everything."

On top of the student march itself, about 3,400 academics also published an open letter in support of the grassroots movement. □



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# Female directors of color finding a spotlight at Sundance

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP)** — In the ecosystem of who directs Hollywood's top-grossing films, women of color are the rarest kind.

But the 2019 Sundance Film Festival is proving to be a referendum on the dismal industry statistics. And the positive reception to and pricey acquisitions of films like Gurinder Chadha's "Blinded by the Light" (bought by New Line for \$15 million) and Nisha Ganatra's "Late Night" (Amazon purchased for \$13 million) is, at the very least, promising.

In the U.S. dramatic competition alone, where more than half of the 16 features included were directed by women, three films by women of color have stood out: Lulu Wang's "The Farewell," Minhal Baig's "Hala" and Chinonye Chukwu's "Clemency." Each was written by their director and offer boldly personal stories that have captivated critics, audiences and industry dealmakers.

"The Farewell," perhaps already one of the best known of the films that debuted at Sundance, is based on Wang's real-life experience when she and her Chinese-American family staged a fake wedding as an excuse to visit her terminally-ill grandmother in China, who was totally unaware of her prognosis. Awkwafina stars in the film, which was bought by A24



This combination photo shows directors, Lulu Wang at the premiere of her film "The Farewell" during the Sundance Film Festival on Jan. 25, Minhal Baig at the premiere of her film "Hala" during the Sundance Film Festival and Chinonye Chukwu at the premiere of her film "Clemency" at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Jan. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

for \$6 million.

Wang, who had previously directed the well-received "Posthumous," took a somewhat roundabout approach to getting her "unconventional" film made.

She wrote it as a short story and submitted it to "This American Life," where it played and got the attention of a lot of producers. Big Beach Films, the shop behind "Little Miss Sunshine" decided to make it.

"I'm very encouraging of filmmakers starting out for different opportunities to create (intellectual property) so that they can get the story locked down in some form," Wang said. "Then they have ownership of it and it becomes easier to take that to pitch."

Baig, who also wrote a personal story based on her life as a Muslim teenager in America during a diffi-

cult time at home, had a similarly circuitous route to making "Hala." First she had to overcome the idea that she'd be satisfied in a more stable, creative-adjacent job as a development executive.

"The only way I could do that was to just go do it," Baig said. "No one was going to give me permission. I just had to put my foot down and say 'I don't want to be a development executive, I just want to be an artist.'"

Then she had to prove herself as a filmmaker. She tested the waters by making a crowd-funded short version of "Hala" and putting it online where the response was "incredible." With a proof of audience and a script that made it onto the 2016 Black List, an influential collection of unproduced scripts, she was

then on the radar of executives and financiers.

With "Blockers" star Geraldine Viswanathan in the title role, "Hala" has been one of the breakouts of the festival. Apple purchased it for an undisclosed amount. "Clemency" writer and director Chukwu also spent years trying to make her film about the psychological and emotional toll taken on a death row prison warden, played by Alfre Woodard. Following the execution of Troy Davis in 2011, Chukwu started a four-year process of deep research, including interviewing death row lawyers and former wardens, and even working as a volunteer in clemency cases and teaching in a woman's prison.

She found a supporter in producer Bronwyn Cornelius and they searched for funding for three years,

encountering some reluctance because of the subject matter and Chukwu being a first-time director. "Clemency" has been widely praised at the festival, where some have declared that it will earn Woodard an Oscar nomination. It is still looking for distribution.

All are aware of the position they're in as filmmakers who happen to also be women and minorities at this moment in Hollywood, where despite all the attention, where they remain vastly underrepresented. Among the 1,200 top films of the past 12 years, female directors of color are in the single digits, according to USC Annenberg's Inclusion Initiative.

"Women of color have been working in Hollywood for a very long time and making their own movies," Baig said. "(But) it's clear that the numbers have not changed very much. Hollywood has greater awareness but they haven't followed through on what they've learned."

Wang is a filmmaker first, but said she feels "a sense of responsibility just because there are still so few of us. It's hard not to personalize it when you see the numbers."

She hopes that aspiring filmmakers "embrace their uniqueness," admitting that it took her a long time to do that.

Perhaps uniqueness is the key word. □

# Christina Aguilera to launch Las Vegas residency in May

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Christina Aguilera is joining the growing number of musicians launching residencies in Las Vegas. The singer announced Tuesday that "Christina Aguilera: The Xperience" will open at Zappos Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on May 31. Aguilera announced 16 performances. Tickets go on sale Saturday. "I really want to make this as interactive as possible and also explore some new

territory, maybe some original material," Aguilera told The Associated Press. The Grammy winner released her debut album in 1999 and is known for hits such as "Genie in a Bottle," "Beautiful" and "Ain't No Other Man." Aguilera released the album "Liberation," last year. Two of its songs — "Fall in Line" with Demi Lovato and "Like I Do" with GoldLink — earned nominations at the 2019 Grammys, airing Feb. 10 in Los Angeles. The singer's 4-year-old

daughter and 11-year-old son will join her in Vegas. The children are familiar with Aguilera's lifestyle already, occasionally joining her on stage during her recent tour. "As long as we're all together and making the best of the moment, that's all I can ask for and truly, it is what our lifestyle is all about," she said. Others who have made Vegas a temporary home include Britney Spears, Lady Gaga, Celine Dion, the Backstreet Boys and Mariah Carey. □



In this Dec. 31, 2018 file photo, Christina Aguilera performs at the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square in New York.

Associated Press



# Peter Jackson making new documentary of Beatles' 'Let It Be'

By **HILLEL ITALIE**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Beatles' farewell documentary "Let It Be" is getting an encore, and a reinvention. "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson announced Wednesday that he is making a new film out of some 55 hours of footage — shot in January 1969 — that has never been seen by the public. The original movie, directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, came out soon after the Beatles broke up in 1970 and has long been viewed as a chronicle of the band members growing apart. In a Rolling Stone interview given months after the film's release, John Lennon recalled the making of "Let It Be" as a miserable experience, "set-up by Paul (McCartney) for Paul. "That is one of the main reasons the Beatles ended. I can't speak for George, but I pretty damn well know we got fed up of being side-men for Paul," he said. But Jackson says the additional footage tells a very different story. "It's simply an amazing historical treasure-trove," he



In this Dec. 9, 2014 file photo, writer/director/producer Peter Jackson arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies" in Los Angeles.

**Associated Press**

said. "Sure, there's moments of drama — but none of the discord this project has long been associated with." For Jackson, the Beatles movie marks another turn to documentaries after his recent "They Shall Not Grow Old," a film that brings

World War I to life after the director restored heavily-damaged, grainy footage, transferred it into 3-D and even used expert lip readers to restore lost dialogue. He is working on "Let It Be" with the cooperation of McCartney, Ringo Starr, and Yoko Ono and Olivia

Harrison, the widows of John Lennon and George Harrison. The new project was announced on the 50th anniversary of one of the highlights of "Let It Be," the Beatles' spirited performance on the roof of Apple Records in London. No release date has been

set. A remastered version of the original film, which won an Oscar for best original score, also is planned. In 1969, the movie was meant to show the Beatles turning away from the psychedelic tricks of "Sgt. Pepper" as they jam on new songs such as "I've Got a Feeling" and "Get Back." But the Beatles seem far older and wearier than the joyous mop-tops of a few years earlier. Harrison briefly walked out during filming and on camera argues with McCartney over a proposed guitar part. Harrison would later blame tension with McCartney and unhappiness with Lennon's then-new relationship with Ono, who is often by Lennon's side in the movie. "Paul wanted nobody to play on his songs until he decided how it should go. For me it was like: 'What am I doing here? This is painful!'" he said in an interview for a 1990s video anthology of the Beatles. "Then superimposed on top of that was Yoko, and there were negative vibes at that time. John and Yoko were out on a limb. □

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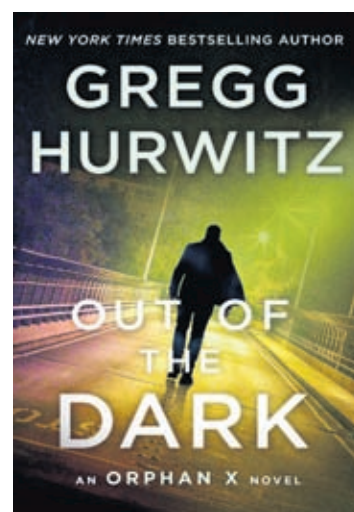
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<b>BON BINI HOLLAND 2</b> <small>JANDINO ASPORAAT   LILIANA DE VRIES</small> <small>DUTCH</small> <small>MON-THU 5:20   7:25   9:30</small> <small>FRI 5:20   7:25   9:30   11:35</small> <small>SAT 1:10   3:15   5:20   7:25   9:30   11:35</small> <small>SUN 1:10   3:15   5:20   7:25   9:30</small> <b>[PG-13]</b>	<b>the upside</b> <small>BRYAN CRANSTON   KEVIN HART</small> <small>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</small> <small>MON-FRI 3:50   6:30   9:10</small> <small>SAT-SUN 1:10   3:50   6:30   9:10</small> <b>[PG-13]</b>
<b>A DOG'S WAY HOME</b> <small>BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD   ASHLEY JUDD</small> <small>MON-THU 4:30   6:45</small> <small>FRI &amp; SUN 2:15   4:30   6:45</small> <b>[PG]</b>	<b>GLASS</b> <small>BRUCE WILLIS   SAMUEL L. JACKSON</small> <small>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</small> <small>MON-FRI 3:45   6:25   9:05</small> <small>SAT-SUN 1:05   3:45   6:25   9:05</small> <b>[PG-13]</b>
<b>AQUAMAN</b> <small>JASON MOMOA   AMBER HEARD</small> <small>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</small> <small>MON-FRI &amp; SUN 9:00</small> <b>[PG-13]</b>	

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## 'Out of the Dark' is a great thriller



This cover image released by Minotaur shows "Out of the Dark," by Gregg Hurwitz.

**Associated Press**

By **JEFF AYERS**

"Out of the Dark: an Orphan X Novel" (Minotaur), by Gregg Hurwitz  
Evan Smoak was trained to be Orphan X, and his first assignment over 20 years ago seemed to be successful. Now the other elite team members of that mis-

sion have been eliminated one by one. Evan investigates and realizes that the man who started the Program that turned him into an assassin is cleaning up and having the other orphans killed as well. Rather than wait for the inevitable, he decides to go on the defensive and take out the man who started the orphan Program. Why is his former superior now taking out these operatives? Nonetheless, it will take more than meticulous planning and skill to succeed, since this man is the most heavily guarded person in the world: the president of the United States. The president knows he has to fight back, so he pulls his very first recruit, Orphan A, out of a federal penitentiary. Orphan A has no moral values, and his first job is to murder all potential witnesses before he kills

Orphan X. With the help of two fellow inmates who find pleasure in inflicting pain on others, Orphan A knows exactly how to get Orphan X once and for all. Evan always tries to do the right thing, and he goes out of his way to help others who are dealing with insurmountable odds. He usually levels the playing field by his skill set, but this time he might be outmatched. "Out of the Dark" by Gregg Hurwitz takes the reader on a journey that covers a wide range of emotions from potential love to outright terror. The relentless action and detailed mission planning make the tale both clever and smart. Hurwitz continues to profile this stellar character and improve with each new installment. It's only the end of January, but this novel will be remembered as one of the best thrillers of the year. □



# New CBS contest 'World's Best' wins post-Super Bowl slot

By BETH HARRIS  
LYNN ELBER

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A roundup of news from the Television Critics Association winter meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs.

## SUPER KICK-OFF

CBS is betting big on "The World's Best," handing over the coveted post-Super Bowl time slot to the new talent competition shepherded by reality TV titans Mark Burnett and Mike Darnell.

Burnett has a track record following the NFL's showcase game. In 2001, his "Survivor: The Australian Outback" debuted in that slot, drawing more than 45 million viewers.

CBS scored again in 2010 when "Undercover Boss" followed the Super Bowl and lured more than 38 million viewers.

Hosted by James Corden, "The World's Best" premieres Sunday after Super Bowl 53. Besides impressing judges RuPaul, Drew Barrymore and Faith Hill, contestants have to break through the "wall of the world" featuring more than 50 experts from 38 different countries who score the competition. Among them is Brazilian UFC fighter Anderson Silva. The winner receives \$1 million.

Burnett's other big hit is "The Voice." Darnell's credits include "American Idol" and "Ellen's Game of Games." "The World's Best" joins a crowded field of reality competition programming, including "The Masked Singer," renewed for a second season by Fox on Wednesday.

Darnell told TV critics that his show's format isn't based on any existing foreign programs and offers "the next new spin on a variety show." The show offers RuPaul a broader platform than he's enjoyed as host of "RuPaul's Drag Race" on VH1.

"We were all not prepared for the emotional journey that the show and performances took us on," the drag performer said. "It



Alison Holloway, from left, Mike Darnell, RuPaul and Ben Winston participate in the "The World's Best" show panel during the CBS presentation at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour at The Langham Huntington on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

was phenomenal to watch all these amazing people from around the world express themselves." The second episode airs on Feb. 6.

## BACK IN TOWN

Noah Wyle is back in Chicago for a TV drama that's far different than the 1990s hit "ER" that launched his career.

In CBS' limited series "The Red Line," Wyle's character loses his African-American husband in a mistaken police shooting that's the catalyst for family anguish and social uproar.

Wyle, who went from fresh-faced Dr. Carter in NBC's 1994-2009 medical drama "ER" to action series including "The Librarian" and "Falling Skies," choked up as he discussed "The Red Line," a title referring to a major train line that cuts through Chicago's diverse neighborhoods.

"My emotional reaction to my first reading of the script was so intense. I've never read a piece of material that moved me like that. I can't even talk about the show without getting upset," Wyle said Wednesday, pausing to gather himself. In the eight-episode limited series debuting April 28, the shooting of teacher Daniel

Calder's doctor-husband leaves him as single dad to their daughter, Jira. The survivors are mired in grief, while the white police officer at fault for killing an innocent man faces the public and legal repercussions of his actions.

Noel Fisher plays Officer Paul Evans, Aliyah Royale plays Jira and Emayatzy Corinealdi is Jira's birth mother in the series from executive producers that include Greg Berlanti ("God Friended Me"), Ava DuVernay ("Selma") and Erica Weiss and Caitlin Parrish. The latter two are Chicago writers whose play inspired the drama.

The series intends to look at all those deeply affected by the tragedy, from the victim's survivors to the police officer and his family, the producers said. The intent is to bridge the gap between the "two Americas living side by side," said Parrish, and, as Weiss said, "perhaps see themselves more clearly."

Corinealdi echoed that point, saying America needs to confront "our family business."

"There is an epidemic that's happening, when black men are being systematically killed," the actress said. "To be able to discuss

that on this kind of scale is important and it's necessary. For me, that's one of main reasons I was excited about walking into this role."

## ROUND THREE

"The Good Fight" will be musical as well as combative in its third season.

Creators Robert and Michelle King said the drama will continue to play off current events and mull the form resistance to the Trump administration takes in the lives of its characters. There also will be tunes that naturally reflect what's happening in a scene, Robert King said Wednesday.

One example: series stars Christine Baranski and Audra McDonald's characters perform an impromptu version of "Raspberry Beret," bonding over their love of Prince. In another instance, "The Good Fight" newcomer Michael Sheen sings the Jackson 5 song "I'll Be There."

"One of the most terrifying things I've done, but I think it's going to make for historic TV," Sheen said, drolly.

The former "Masters of Sex" star plays a devilish, rule-breaking lawyer who Robert King said is modeled on political fixer Roy Cohn, a mentor during President Donald Trump's early busi-

ness career, and longtime Trump adviser Roger Stone, who King called the "modern version" of Cohn.

Stone, charged with lying about his pursuit of Russian-hacked emails damaging to Democrat Hillary Clinton's 2016 election bid, has pleaded not guilty.

While King said the drama will focus on the precarious state of truth in the present world and how Baranski's character, Diane, pushes back as "the guardrails are coming off institutions," he countered the idea that "Good Fight" is a leftist forum.

"We're not real fans of shows that preach to the choir. Our show's probably perceived as doing that, but it's really, a lot of it, a satire of the left," he said, citing an episode that explores racism among people "who pat themselves on the back for giving to the right causes and are really kind of scumbags themselves."

"The Good Fight" begins its new season March 14 on CBS All Access, an on-demand and live streaming service.

## MARRIED, AND TO THEIR WORK

Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer first got together professionally and personally on "True Blood." Now they're working together again, except she's the star and executive producer and he's strictly an off-camera boss.

Paquin plays an expert publicity maven in "Flick" debuting Feb. 21. Moyer is an executive producer on the six-episode Pop series. The couple, who married in 2010 and have two children together, share a production company.

"We were looking for material to develop," Paquin said Wednesday. "Two, three scripts showed up and we literally couldn't stop reading them."

The project took five years to get on television. Then Moyer was off in Atlanta shooting Fox's "The Gifted," leaving him unable to be as involved as he normally would. □



# How Germany hopes to quit using coal

By **FRANK JORDANS**

**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany wants to stop using coal, a major source of the carbon emissions that drive climate change. But finding the least disruptive way to get there has been a challenge.

A big question is not only when the last mines and power plants will close down, but how quitting coal can be done without generating drawn-out protests or harming the German economy.

A government-appointed panel of experts is poised to offer recommendations. Despite months of deliberations, the panel remained undecided on key issues ahead of a key meeting on Friday.

A short guide to the stakes at play and some proposed solutions:

## WHY IS GERMANY QUITTING COAL?

Germany is committed to the 2015 Paris climate accord, an international agreement that set a goal of keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F), ideally 1.5 C (2.7 F).

Achieving the goal will require steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. Germany's coal plants produce the most carbon dioxide of any country in Europe, and forecasts indicate the country will miss its 2020 tar-



In this photo taken Aug. 27, 2018 bucket wheel digs for coal near the Hambach Forest near Dueren, Germany.

get for reducing emissions. The country closed its remaining black coal mines last year, but still imports the fossil fuel from abroad. It also mines and burns lignite, a particularly cheap and dirty type of coal. Together, they provide more than one-third of Germany's electricity — a far greater share than other countries that have announced they're quitting coal.

Dropping coal would help the country meet its emissions goals for 2030 and 2050, which entail cuts of 55 percent and over 80 percent respectively.

## POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES

Some 20,000 jobs in Germany are tied directly to the coal industry; another 40,000 depend on it indirectly. That's a vanishingly small number compared to other areas, including renewable energy, but coal jobs are located in economically depressed regions.

Two of the four German states where coal is still mined — Brandenburg and Saxony in the country's east — hold elections this year. The far-right Alternative for Germany party, which has been polling strongly ahead of the votes, has taken the position the mines should be kept open as long as there's coal.

A competing voice comes from Germany's environmental movement. There were large protests last year against the planned clearing of an ancient forest for mining, while thousands have rallied on the streets in recent years to call for action to halt climate change.

The German government, wary of making such a complicated and politically sensitive decision itself, punted the nitty-gritty negotiations to 28 experts representing industry, science, environmental groups and

politicians from the affected regions.

Ottmar Edenhofer, co-director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said the best way for Germany to avoid yellow vest-style protests, the ones seen in France over a fuel tax increase meant to discourage fossil fuel use, would be for Berlin to actively communicate the benefits that outweigh the likely cost of quitting coal.

## HOW WILL THEY DO IT?

The panel is considering various options, from a quick closure of some power plants to a series of shutdowns that start slow and speed up toward a final exit date. It hasn't yet

agreed on a top recommendation.

Economists and environmentalists favor the first option, saying it would buy time to solve some of the more complicated issues. Not only is Germany giving up coal, it has already pledged to end the use of nuclear power by 2022, further narrowing its room for maneuvering.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has suggested Germany will temporarily need to import more natural gas — which emits about half as much CO2 as coal — to bridge the supply gap until renewable sources can fully meet the country's energy demands.

The government is expected to have to spend billions of euros (dollars) helping affected regions manage the economic impact of mine closures in the coming decades. A draft proposal envisages the creation of 5,000 new jobs over the next 10 years.

More money would need to be set aside to compensate utility companies for shutting down their coal-fired plants early and to ensure businesses and consumers don't get hefty increases stuck on their electricity bills.

Eric Schweitzer, head of the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told business daily Handelsblatt that, all in all, the cost of Germany's coal exit could reach up to 170 billion euros (\$193 billion). □



In this picture taken Nov. 6, 2007 dismissed coal miners of the company Deilmann Haniel demonstrate during the German coal convention day 2007 in the Philharmonic Concert Hall of Essen, Germany.

**Associated Press**



In this Sept. 7, 2018 file photo bucket wheels dig for coal near the Hambach Forest near Dueren, Germany.

**Associated Press**